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Shohat: Budget cuts a must if deficit to be curbed

JOSE ROSENFELD

IN a pre-emptive strike against the defense establishment's request for an additional NIS 2 billion to pay for the IDF's redeployment, Finance Minister Avraham Shohat said last night that preliminary estimates for next year's budget show that without serious spending cuts the deficit will grow.

Shohat has warned that unless ministers agree to smaller budgets, the government will have to impose taxes to reach a smaller deficit.

Shohat called a hasty meeting of the Treasury's senior officials last night to get a preview of next year's budget in preparation for today's cabinet meeting, where the defense establishment will make its case for funding the army's redeployment to implement the interim agreement with the Palestinians.

Based on the picture of growing spending and shrinking revenues that the Treasury drew, Shohat will demand today that most of the cost of redeployment be absorbed by the Defense Budget.

According to Treasury Budget Director Ron Krol, the spending and revenues in the pipeline for next year will result in a larger budget deficit than this year.

Under the Budget Law's deficit-reduction provision, the deficit must gradually drop every year. This year, the Treasury budgeted for a deficit of 2.75 percent of the Gross Domestic Product, down from 3 percent of the GDP last year.

In order to keep with the law, the Treasury said that not only will all the ministers' budget not increase, but they will have to face cuts. Shohat added that despite the fact that next year is an election year, the government must deal with the country's ballooning balance of payments gap, which is expected to reach \$4.8 billion, by further cutting deficit spending.

Defense officials will present the cabinet their figures for the cost of (Continued on Page 4)



The covered body of garage owner Shlomo Akbi lies in front of the Al Kadar family's garage in Taiba, where he was cut down by a bullet. Police believe he was killed by members of the Hariri clan who were shooting at a member of the rival Al Kadar family in a continuation of the feud between them. Full story, Page 12.

Syria: Talks off until Israel drops early warning demands

DAVID MAKOVSKY and HILLEL KUTTLER in Washington

SYRIAN President Hafez Assad is linking the resumption of prescheduled military talks later this month to Israel's dropping its insistence on retaining early warning capability on the Golan Heights, American and Israeli diplomatic sources said over the weekend.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres accused Syria yesterday of creating a crisis in negotiations and said time was running out for a peace agreement.

An American diplomatic source in Tel Aviv said the current impasse does not require a visit by Secretary of State Warren Christopher to the region. Just a day earlier, a State Department official was cited as saying that it was "99 percent" certain Christopher would visit the region next month.

US Middle East peace envoy Dennis Ross flew back to the US late Thursday night after failing to secure an agreement between the parties on a resumption of military talks began last December.

"There is a crisis... but I must say I am very happy that nobody can place the blame on Israel," Peres told Israel Radio in an interview from Paris. "It is a crisis created by Syria, in fact without Israeli involvement or responsibility."

"Perhaps they [the talks] will resume, but meanwhile Syria is presenting many difficulties and is not taking into account that there is a time factor. Time is running out," said Peres, pointing to next year's Israeli and US elections.

The American diplomatic source in Tel Aviv said that Syria "wants it resolved that there is no early warning on the Golan."

An Israeli official said that Syria is not only insisting that Israel no longer have its own Golan stations, but also opposes the presence of IDF soldiers in early-warning stations under control of a third party.

"There's no argument on [the principles of] airborne or satellite photos but on ground stations," the official said. "Syria formally is not prepared to accept ground stations... jointly manned, as we suggested during the Barak-Shihabi meeting in December, because it claims any Israeli ground presence at all is a continuation of the occupation."

When Ross asked Assad about a Radio Damascus report early last week saying it would accept third party control of stations on its territory, Assad said the radio report did not reflect Syria's official position. The state-run Damascus Radio subsequently has neither reaffirmed nor contradicted its initial report, the American diplomatic source said.

The US and Israel believe that Syria has reneged on understandings reached in May when Christopher announced the resumption of talks on security arrangements for the Golan Heights, the Israeli official said.

The US is not seeking an Israeli concession to Syria's latest maneuver, the Israeli official insisted. (Continued on Page 4)

Labor to okay Barak, Beilin as ministers

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

FORMER chief of general staff Lt.-Gen. (res.) Ehud Barak is to register as a member of the Labor Party at party headquarters in Tel Aviv today, prior to joining the cabinet tomorrow.

This afternoon Labor's central committee will convene at Beit Berl to vote on Barak's ministerial appointment, which is expected to be approved by an overwhelming majority. The committee will also be asked to approve Deputy Minister Yossi Beilin's joining the cabinet.

After the approval of his appointment, Barak, who will take part in the meeting, will make his debut with an official address to the committee members. Rabin will present the appointments to a specially-convened cabinet meeting tomorrow for approval, and after that, the appointments will be brought to the Knesset the same day for the plenum's approval.

Fifty-three percent of the public support Barak's being appointed a minister, while 28% oppose the move and 19% have no

opinion, according to a poll conducted by Dr. Mina Tsemah over the weekend.

The poll also showed that 41% of the public watched Barak's Channel 1 interview on television Thursday night, while another 11% listened to it on the radio. Among those who watched the show, 63% favored Barak's appointment, 28% opposed it and 9% had no opinion. The sample included 581 people.

The schedule for Barak's appointment was moved up by Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin last week following the public storm which erupted over the Yediot Aharonot expose questioning Barak's conduct during the Tze'elim-2 accident. The move demonstrates Rabin's and Labor leadership's complete faith in Barak and in the IDF's judiciary system.

The committee is only required to approve Barak's and Beilin's joining the cabinet as ministers. The portfolios they receive and when they enter their respective offices is up to Rabin, who might decide to delay that

decision until it is clear whether Shas has any intention of rejoining the cabinet.

Labor and Shas figures have been holding discreet talks over the past few days in an effort to settle the issue of Shas's re-entering the coalition. Labor has made it clear to Shas that if it joins the cabinet, it will receive the Interior and Religious Affairs portfolios, and perhaps even a third portfolio.

Shas leader Rabbi Ovadia Yosef is eager to regain control over the Interior and Religious Affairs ministries to stop Religious Affairs Minister Shimon Shetret's reforms and to resume the generous financial allocations to Shas's institutions.

However, Shas sources estimate that Shas will remain in opposition due to party chairman MK Aryeh Deri's steadfast objection. Deri believes that entering the cabinet will harm Shas in the elections, by driving away many of its right wing voters who might prefer to support MK David Levy's yet unformed new party.

Families call for Tse'elim-2 inquiry, Page 2

0.3% CPI increase catches economists by surprise

JOSE ROSENFELD

THE steep drop in fruit and vegetable prices together with the moderate rise of housing costs restrained June's Consumer Price Index increase to only 0.3 percent, catching economists by surprise.

Based on the low rate of inflation since the beginning of the year, it now appears highly unlikely that workers will receive any cost of living adjustment in their August salaries.

According to the wage adjustment formula, employees only receive a cost of living increase when inflation rises over 3% in six months. Since February, prices rose 2.3%, so July's index would have to rise by more than 0.7% to trigger the payment of a cost of living adjustment.

Economists estimate that such an increase is unlikely, since inflation tends to moderate during the summer months.

Bank Hapoalim's chief economist Ptachia Bar-Shavit said the non-payment of the cost of living adjustment for the first time in over 20 years will send a strong and concrete message to breadwinners of greater price stability.

Inflation is estimated to be running now at an annual rate of 5%, according to Central Bureau of Statistics price division director Rahamim Ozana. However, he (Continued on Page 12)

Health Ministry rejects AIDS test for pregnant women

JUDY SIEGEL

THE Health Ministry has rejected the advice of a US AIDS expert calling for mandatory testing of all pregnant women, which would identify HIV carriers for drug treatment that greatly reduces the risk of transmission to their babies. The ministry's national steering committee on AIDS will soon recommend voluntary testing of pregnant women, but ministry officials may reject even this suggestion for budgetary and other reasons, *The Jerusalem Post* has learned.

A year ago, the US National Institutes of Health (NIH) proved - in what is regarded as a major scientific breakthrough - that giving infected pregnant women the anti-AIDS drug AZT can prevent HIV transmission in two-thirds or more of

infants. Fifty-seven Israeli babies have been born infected with the fatal virus so far. Mandatory screening of all pregnant women here would cost about NIS 300,000 - little more than the cost of treating a single AIDS baby until its death.

Medical ethicist and gynecologist Rabbi Dr. Mordechai Halperin said that as a result of the AZT discovery, the ministry's refusal to carry out mandatory testing violates Jewish law, as the right of a child to be free of disease is more important than its mother's right to privacy.

The Health Ministry has rejected that view, saying a woman cannot be forced to have an AIDS test even if it would save her baby.

Full story, Page 5

Dream keeps Seoul miracle girl alive for 16 days

SEOUL (Reuters) - A 19-year-old woman was miraculously pulled from the debris of a Seoul department store yesterday after 16 days without food or fresh water, and said she had clung to life after a dream gave her an apple in a dream.

Hours after she was pulled from a tiny gap in the wreckage of South Korea's worst peacetime disaster, shop assistant Park Seung-hyun told her father, "A monk appeared in dreams from time to time. He gave me an apple and this kept my hope alive."

She was rescued underneath a collapsed elevator shaft, the same area where two long-term survivors have already been dug out - another girl four days ago and a 21-year-old shop assistant last Sunday.

Park made a feeble and plaintive cry to attract the attention of rescuers who had stopped exca-

vating after finding a cavity in the chaos of twisted steel rods and concrete. Rescuers dug frantically with their hands to get to Park, buried in the rubble and surrounded by decaying bodies.

The official death toll so far stands at 315, but about 320 people are still posted as missing.

"We were clearing away the concrete when suddenly we saw a hole. We stopped all work because we had to check if someone might be in that hole," rescuer Ahn said.

Her father, Park Jae-won said, "She said she heard screams for help after the collapse and she had conversations with a colleague through concrete slabs but she only heard weak groans later which gradually came to a halt."

Hospital head Kim In-chol told reporters: "She told me she had no food and water, not even rain water. It's amazing."

Report: US approves sale of AMRAAM to Middle East

HILLEL KUTTLER
WASHINGTON

ISRAEL and the United Arab Emirates will now be able to purchase America's top air-to-air missile, the AIM-120 AMRAAM, under permission recently granted to the US Air Force.

In its lead article tomorrow, *Defense Week* reports that the decision was made last month by the National Disclosure Policy Committee to make the weapon available for the first time in the Middle East.

It had previously been sold only to NATO allies.

Israeli officials will receive a briefing on the AMRAAM's integration into F-15I fighters during a visit this week to the St. Louis headquarters of McDonnell Douglas, which manufac-

tures the planes.

The UAE's Chief of Staff Lt.-Gen. Mohamed Bin Zayed is also due to discuss the matter during a visit to the Pentagon this week.

He reportedly told the US that the UAE would purchase F-15s only if the AMRAAM were made available.

Hughes Aircraft Co. and Raytheon Co., which jointly manufacture the 1988 model of the AMRAAM that is being sold to both countries, is likely to earn billions of dollars through these sales, the article states.

Although the UAE is also purchasing the missile and Saudi Arabia could follow, Israel's concerns over an erosion of its qualitative military edge "have been (Continued on Page 4)

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YOUR WEEK JUST GOT EVEN THE JERUSALEM POST

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Committees to meet in Zichron Ya'acov today to hammer out pact

TALKS open today in Zichron Ya'acov in four Israeli-Palestinian committees which will try to stitch together all the strands of the second stage of the Oslo Accord into an agreement by July 25.

These elements include redeployment, elections, transfer of powers, and legal issues.

After a Palestinian Authority Cabinet meeting in Gaza yesterday, Palestinian officials said they will send 50 negotiators to the committees. PA Chairman Yasser Arafat wanted the talks held in the area rather than in Italy to permit fast consultations between the negotiators and the decision-makers in Gaza. In the past, Palestinians have preferred to hold the talks abroad, where friendly host countries could intercede with the Israelis.

Among the crucial issues to be settled are the exact security powers of the Palestinian Police outside the six major towns, and an arrangement which will allow Palestinians to hold elections in Hebron despite the continued presence of settlers and IDF troops there. Palestinian sources said they will stress the value of more joint patrols.

The election talks have resolved most technical issues, but

JON IMMANUEL and ALON PINKAS

must still resolve the fundamental issues: the size of the administrative council and the extent of its legislative powers if any, and the participation of Jerusalem residents as candidates as well as voters in the elections.

Some eight of the remaining 35 civil administration spheres of authority are expected to be ready for signing over before the end of the month, and most of the others will be signed over soon afterwards as the technical talks proceed. But the precise area of Palestinian authority over water resources which affects Israeli interests west of the Green Line and in settlements has to be arranged before a redeployment agreement can be signed.

Various issues of legal authority must also be resolved since there will be more Israeli-Palestinian interaction under the second stage of the interim accord than there has been in Gaza and Jericho, where power was transferred more completely. Palestinian sources said they will also be talking about their financial needs following redeployment.

Meanwhile, two senior officers have recently asked to be re-

lieved from their positions as members of the negotiating team due to personality clashes with Maj.-Gen. Oren Shabor, the army's senior negotiator with the Palestinians along with OC Planning Branch Maj.-Gen. Uzi Dayan.

Col. David Yahav, head of the IDF Judge Advocate-General's international law division and his deputy, a lieutenant colonel, have left the negotiating team, army sources confirmed last night.

According to one source, the two have privately said in the last several days that Shabor, the coordinator of activities in the territories, "is not fully prepared before negotiations begin and seems adamant about not listening to the advice of experts who are there solely for the purpose of advising him on cardinal legal issues."

Other officers have meanwhile been appointed to fill the two vacancies.

Shabor, through a spokeswoman, said that all the personnel required for the negotiations are available, including advisers. As for Yahav, he asked to leave because he is retiring from active service and he has since been replaced, Shabor said.

Deal reached to free Palestinians

JON IMMANUEL

PRISONER talks held in Jerusalem Friday ended with an agreement in principle to release many Palestinian inmates in two stages and to discuss further releases later.

No figures were issued, only categories of prisoners, but the numbers in the first two stages are understood to include 1,500-2,000 inmates, mostly arrested before the Oslo Accord. About 100 of them include aged, sick, those under 18, and women prisoners.

The talks at Jerusalem's King David Hotel were conducted by Justice Minister David Liba'i, Police Minister Moshe Shahal and Environment Minister Yossi Sarid, and for the Palestinians Planning Minister Nabil Shaath and two former prisoners Hisham Abdel Razek and Sufian Abu Zaydah, who are leading Fatah officials in Gaza.

Prisoner releases could begin as early as July 25, if a second stage interim agreement is reached by then, and continue a few months later prior to Palestinian council elections.

The Israeli conditions were that the prisoners to be released not be guilty of serious crimes and agree to accept the peace process, Sarid said.

Palestinians have rejected "these criteria as opposed to the spirit of the peace accords. But talking pains to observe a new spirit of cooperation rather than confrontation, Shaath said, "Although we appreciate all the ef-



Palestinian Authority negotiator Nabil Shaath (left) shakes hands with Police Minister Moshe Shahal (right) at talks Friday on the release of Palestinian prisoners, as Environment Minister Yossi Sarid looks on.

forts the ministers have made, we of course are not satisfied yet."

A prisoners' representative, lawyer Ahmad Sayad of the Mandala Institute in Ramallah, said yesterday the prisoners' groups were not yet satisfied because "their main demand is a written agreement with an agenda for the release of all prisoners."

Figures differ, but there are currently some 5,600 Palestinians in Israeli jails, of whom some 2,000 were imprisoned before the Oslo Accord in September 1993.

There also are 2,800 who were imprisoned afterwards, according to a statement by Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in the Knesset two weeks ago.

Some 800 Palestinians are in jail for offenses Israel considers criminal rather than political. It has not been made clear if these prisoners include those convicted of murder and attempted murder of Israelis, of whom Shahal reported there were 700 a week ago.

The fate of the IDF soldiers missing in action in Lebanon

since the battle of Sultan Ya'acub in 1982 was also raised during the talks, an informed source said. No further details were available.

Meanwhile, eleven Israelis imprisoned at Ayalon and Nitzan prisons for attacking Arabs on Friday ended their two-week hunger strike, a protest against plans to release Palestinian prisoners. They agreed to stop the strike at the behest of Chief Rabbi Yisrael Meir Lau.

Batsheva Tsor contributed to this report.

BEFORE THE REDEPLOYMENT

Jenin residents want wider pullback

JON IMMANUEL

ON Jenin's main street, youths ambush an IDF patrol and pelt it with stones. A moment later a military tear gas canister explodes.

Such scenes, which had become rare in recent months, returned last week - even with the prospect of self-rule in sight.

Soldiers, who had almost disappeared from the city's streets recently, returned during the demonstrations on behalf of security prisoners a week ago, says veteran Fatah militant Nayef Sweitat, now head of Jenin's elections committee.

He accused Hamas of provoking children to throw stones. Others called it non-political, end-of-school-term vandalism, noting that local cars have also been stoned.

Fatah is embarrassed, because it wants to make a good impression to broaden the terms of self-rule in the two weeks remaining to reach an agreement.

One of the reasons the government decided on Jenin first was its belief that the city was relatively apolitical and that Fatah, with more than 70 percent support, had virtually total control there.

Both Fatah and the opposition decide the redeployment agreement shaping up for the town. Businessmen fear they will be cut off

from the rest of the Jenin district.

"They are talking about seven square kilometers, but outside this area - with 35,000 people - there are 160,000 people living in 54 villages who come to the market," says Tawfiq Abu Mashayih, a cement producer who fears his product will also have difficulty reaching the villages. "They are 90% of the customers. Will they be allowed to come in freely through the new roadblocks?"

"Instead of one checkpoint, there will be two - one on the Green Line and one on the edge of Jenin," says Nasser Damaj, a reporter for the Voice of Palestine. "The solution must be joint checkpoints, with Israelis not interfering."

Jenin was the most militant town outside Gaza during the intifada, a place of collaboration killings and sniping at soldiers. However, it has closer relations with Israeli Arabs than any other Palestinian town, as can be witnessed by the number of Israeli cars there on any day.

Tight checkpoints, like the ones now on the frontiers of Gaza and even Jericho, could ruin business, the Palestinians insist.

The absence of settlements around Jenin, another reason it was considered easy to withdraw troops from there, creates resentment. "We must reach 15-20 kilometers from the town center, wherever there is no danger to settlers," says Sweitat. "Otherwise, what we have is a closure rather than peace."

Settlers from tiny Kadim and Gamin are pressing for the road on Jenin's northern edge, which they must use to travel to Israel, to remain in Israeli hands. It will until a bypass road is built, security sources say.

The town is in limbo: The Israeli-appointed mayor, Abdullah Lahlonh, widely considered a collaborator, has been relocated to Tiberias. Fatah was anxious to take over Jenin just to see him go.

Fatah has already designated that the first PA-appointed council will be headed by veteran activist Walid Muas, according to Fatah general secretary in Jenin Qadura Musa.

Ground-breaking has begun on a District Coordinators' Office five kilometers south of the town.

Jenin is a test case. "By the end of August, you may see police in uniform in Jenin," a security source says. "From it, lessons will be drawn for Nablus, Tulkarm and Kalkilya."

Tze'elim-2 families demand state commission of inquiry

ALON PINKAS

THE five families whose sons were killed in the Tze'elim-2 accident in November 1992 demanded on Friday that a state inquiry commission be established and investigate the accident and the responsibility of senior officers.

The families on Friday convened a news conference in Kibbutz Netzer Sereni following former chief of staff Ehud Barak's appearance on television Thursday night.

Representatives of the families said that Barak may be right in asserting that the commander of the army should manage the entire operation rather than tend to wounded, but that as commander of the army his attitude of avoiding the issue for an entire year is both questionable, inappropriate and eventually painful to the families.

They noted that Barak's attitude towards them throughout the entire difficult period they endured had been humane and warm.

In a statement issued by the families, they contended that Barak should have immediately clarified the controversial points in the inquiry and then acted to demand responsibility from commanders.

Failing to do so, they said, left the army, the families and the entire public in an endless spiral of uncertainty that raised questions concerning the army's norms of behavior and lack of command responsibility.

"We are not judges and we will not pass judgment on officers, but the issue is very important to us and should therefore be investigated by an external body, such as the State Comptroller," said Ran Shafran.

The families said that the two Tze'elim-2 investigations revealed "excruciating issues that should be further examined."

"We are referring to discrepancies in testimonies, inconsistencies in testimonies, pre-coordinated versions between those investigated, failure to submit all relevant material to the investigation committees, perplexing behavior by some of the officers questioned, and different opinions on the chain of command," the statement said.

The father of Eran Wachsbaum, another casualty, said he is most bothered by the apparent contradictions contained in Barak's testimonies to the Eitan commission and the military police's investigation which followed seven months later.

"The fact that the Judge Advocate-General decided to endorse one version and not the other is extremely alarming. The military police report had different conclusions than those the JAG drew, and even Maj.-Gen. Amir Levine provided different version to the two commit-

tees. The JAG ignored that," Sammi Wachsbaum said.

"What is even more dangerous is that the army concealed information from the families. On the day of the funerals, a commander from the Sayeret Matkal unit visited, but refused to tell me if he was at the exercise. What was he afraid of, his responsibility?" Wachsbaum asked.

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SLA soldier hurt in Hizbullah bombing

DAVID RUDGE

A SOUTH Lebanese Army soldier was slightly wounded Friday afternoon in a roadside-bomb attack in the Jezzine enclave region, north of the security zone, as Hizbullah vowed to continue "resistance" attacks.

The bomb attack followed a similar incident in the same area on Thursday, in which three SLA soldiers were wounded, two moderately and the other slightly. Hizbullah claimed responsibility for both attacks.

The incident Friday occurred when two explosives were detonated alongside SLA troops while they were on operational duties in the Jezzine region.

In separate incidents early Friday morning, SLA outposts in the Bint J'ail region of the western sector of the zone as well as in the Ali Tahr hill range came under mortar, RPG and machine-gun fire.

There were no casualties among the troops manning the positions, and IDF and SLA gunners returned fire.

Meanwhile, Hizbullah's spiritual leader Sheikh Mohammed Hussein Fadlallah on Friday ruled out the possibility of making any amendments to the Operation Accountability understandings.

Four die in weekend road accidents

DAVID RUDGE

POLICE are seeking witnesses to a hit-and-run accident in which a pedestrian was killed near the Ganei Ha'shalom restaurant, near Tamra in the Galilee early Friday morning.

The victim, a 21-year-old resident of the Beduin village of Bosmat Tivon, near Kiryat Tivon, was crossing the main road from the Ahihud to Somch junctions, near the restaurant, when he was struck by a car.

At the Givat Ze'ev Junction, Rahamim Shabibo, a Jerusalem

resident, was killed and 15 injured on Friday afternoon when Shabibo's car swerved into oncoming traffic for unknown reasons and hit a commercial vehicle. Shabibo's two sons suffered moderate injuries, while 13 passengers in the van, all Ramallah area residents, suffered moderate to slight injuries.

A 12-year-old boy, Maher Issa, was hit by a garbage truck driving in reverse and killed in Ezariya,

east of Jerusalem.

Late Thursday night, Moshe Ya'acov, 37, was killed when his car overturned in Netanya near the city's exit. He was declared dead at the scene. A similar accident occurred at the same spot a month ago, in which three people were killed.

In another matter, police in the North accompanied by Nature Reserve Authority wardens staged a crackdown against drivers of All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) on sand dunes.

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Syria jails dozens in unfair trials, group says

NEW YORK - Syria's controversial Supreme State Security Court has tried hundreds of political activists, some who had been tortured or detained for a decade without charge, and handed down sentences of up to 15 years for non-violent offenses, a human rights group said yesterday.

The repression was reported despite encouraging signs since the 1991 Gulf War that Syria, ruled with an iron fist by President Hafez Assad since he seized power in a 1970 coup, was seeking to improve its human rights record amid Western pressure.

A report by the New York-based Human Rights Watch said the regime has been trying hundreds of activists for vague offenses that include "opposing any of the goals of the revolution."

Defendants are denied fair trials and barred from appealing the sentences, the group said.

"They're sending a strong message to Syrian citizens that peaceful political action is not going to be tolerated," said Virginia Sherry, an associate director of Human Rights Watch who spent 48 days in Syria this spring to compile the report.

"It's a population where you pay an extremely high price for daring to dissent," she said in an interview.

The trials have accompanied widespread torture to wrest confessions from suspected activists, the report said.

Some dissidents had no lawyers, others had lawyers imposed on them, some sessions took place in private offices, there is no appeal and the court ignored complaints that the defendants made their confessions under torture, the report said.

The report is based on a rare seven-week mission to Syria between March and May this year and includes first-hand accounts of proceedings in the court, which began trying hundreds of political activists and critics of the government in 1992.

Some of the detainees had been languishing in jail since 1980 and were released after trial because they had already served all the equivalent of their sentences.

The Syrian media do not mention the trials and Human Rights Watch said it found it difficult to get complete information.

But the organization estimated the court had sentenced 15 members of the Communist Party-Political Bureau and 14 members of the Party for Communist Action to 15 years in prison. Forty-eight leftists were sentenced essentially to life in prison.

In one of the first trials in the State Security Court, 10 human rights activists, members of the Committees for the Defense of Democratic Freedoms and Human Rights in Syria, were sentenced to between five and 10 years, the report said.

"(It) effectively caused the collapse of a nascent independent human rights movement inside Syria," it is widely believed in Syria that the lengthy sentences are intended not only to punish principled Syrians who maintain a defiant attitude towards the authorities, but also to deter others from engaging in independent opposition politics.

Serbs attack second Moslem enclave

News agencies
SARAJEVO

WITH Serb rebels pressing their attack on the eastern enclave of Zepa yesterday, government troops seized UN weapons and vehicles in another UN "safe area."

The rebels did not advance on Zepa, but government troops fear it could be overrun like Srebrenica, another "safe area" captured by rebels Tuesday.

Meanwhile, Bosnian Serb forces released 54 Dutch UN peacekeepers yesterday after taking them hostage during the Serb attack on the eastern enclave of Srebrenica, witnesses said.

Reporters saw two buses carrying the Dutch soldiers in Novi Sad, in Serbia, after crossing the border from Bosnia.

The Dutch Defense Ministry said that a total of 64 Dutch peacekeepers had been taken hostage and it was not immediately clear whether some Dutch soldiers were still being held by the Bosnian Serbs.

The Bosnian Serb authorities said throughout that the Dutch were their "guests", not hostages, and had been taken to safety after Serb forces launched their attack on Srebrenica late last week.

Over 300 Dutch peacekeepers had been assigned to protect the UN-designated "safe area" but could only put up limited resistance against superior Bosnian Serb forces.

After Srebrenica fell the Dutch peacekeeping base at nearby Potocari was overwhelmed by some 30,000 Moslem refugees.

The UN failure to protect Srebrenica has infuriated the Bosnian government. Thousands of men and male teenagers from Srebrenica have been seized by the rebels and taken to unknown locations, and there were unconfirmed reports of killings.

At least 13,000 refugees chased out of Srebrenica were bused out to the northern government stronghold of Tuzla where they have spent cool nights and sweltering days in the open with inadequate food and sanitation.



A mother and daughter, refugees from Srebrenica being housed in a UN base in Tuzla, cry after losing all contact with the rest of their family. (AP)

The government pledged its lightly armed troops would defend Zepa and Gorazde, another "safe area," if it too is attacked.

The fall of the eastern enclaves of Srebrenica, Zepa and Gorazde would give the rebels an uninterrupted swath of territory running from the Serbian border to the block of government-held land in central Bosnia.

In Gorazde, government defenders surrounded a Ukrainian peacekeepers' camp and seized five armored vehicles and some weapons from Ukrainian peacekeepers on Friday.

At midnight, government troops targeted the Ukrainian camp with machine gun and grenade fire, said UN spokesman Lt. Col. Gary Coward. A fire broke out in a barracks that was hit.

Government troops also prevented British peacekeepers from leaving their camp to assist the Ukrainians, Coward said.

UN spokesman Rida Ettarashany said government troops in Zepa had targeted the Ukrainian peacekeepers' compound with small arms fire and seized three UN armored personnel carriers early yesterday.

But another UN spokesman, Philip Arnold, later said that the initial report was wrong and the vehicles had not been taken.

However, Arnold said, government troops had blocked several Ukrainian checkpoints.

Serbs shelled Zepa through the night and into the early morning yesterday, Ettarashany said. UN officials said Serb and government forces exchanged small arms fire yesterday afternoon, but could not confirm Bosnian radio's report of strong Serb infantry attack.

Yeltsin health in question as electioneering starts

MOSCOW (Reuters) - Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin fired the first shots yesterday in his election campaign to win Russia's centre ground as speculation swirled around the health of his patron, President Boris Yeltsin.

Chernomyrdin told supporters of his new centre-right bloc "Our Home is Russia" in the Siberian town of Yakutsk that they must stop the rise of the far-right in the December 17 election for the 450-seat State Duma (lower house).

"One must not stand aside when the far-right is thriving in the country," Itar-Tass news agency quoted him as saying in reference to Vladimir Zhirinovskiy's Liberal Democratic Party.

Zhirinovskiy and another big opposition bloc the Communists account for about 100 seats in the current Duma.

Yeltsin, 64, whose ill health has injected a new unpredictable element into the fraught political atmosphere, fixed the date for the poll in a bedside decree at the Moscow hospital where he is being treated for a heart problem.

Presidential aide Georgy Sartov, acting to counter intense media speculation, said yesterday that the condition of the Kremlin leader was not dangerous.

His press service said separately that he was working on state documents in his hospital room.

The president of the Russian Federation, Boris Yeltsin, following a course of treatment in the Central Clinic-Hospital, is continuing to work, a statement said.

Speculation about Yeltsin's health intensified after it was abruptly announced he was staying in hospital next week and calling off a trip to Norway planned for July 19.

"We don't have to dramatise things around the postponement of the visit of the president to Norway," Sartov said in his comments to Interfax news agency.

Yeltsin, whose health and alleged heavy drinking have been the source of conjecture for the two-and-a-half years, was taken to hospital with heart pains on July 11 and is suffering from a blood-supply problem.

Tass released the first photograph of him late on Friday, showing him sitting at a desk in a short-sleeved sports shirt with four telephones nearby.

Yeltsin's top aide Viktor Ilyushin told Tass the strain of office was taking its toll.

He mentioned specifically the Chechnya conflict, the Budenkovsk hostage seizure in June and clashes with the hostile Duma where communists tried to launch impeachment moves.

Suu Kyi meets Burmese crowds

RANGOON (AP) - The crowds of well-wishers outside the residence of released dissident leader Aung San Suu Kyi continued to grow yesterday, even as the official media maintained a blackout on news of her freedom.

To help keep the swelling crowd from blocking traffic, police were posted for the first time on the street outside the ramshackle home that had been her prison for almost six years until Monday.

Mrs. Suu Kyi, 50, was visited by foreign diplomats. She consoled the family of an activist jailed earlier this year for singing pro-democracy songs at the funeral of former Prime Minister U Nu.

And in what has become a daily ritual, the 1991 Nobel Peace laureate came to the gate of her residence at about 3 p.m. local time to speak to the well-behaved crowd.

"Your presence shows the people are behind me," she told them. "I will never betray my country and my people. I am very busy but I am working for my country and not myself."

"It is so!" the crowd replied, in a vivid demonstration of her almost legendary capacity to command loyalty.

"Can you be disciplined?" she asked, and they shouted back: "Yes we can!"

"Can you be courageous?" she asked, and they shouted back: "Yes we can!"

"Can you be smart? If you are smart we will reach our goal without any danger," she said.

"Yes we can!" they replied.

Strike cripples British railways

LONDON (Reuters) - Britain's national rail network ground to a standstill on Friday when train drivers launched a 24-hour strike over pay.

Only Eurostar trains, the only international service in Britain which runs through the Channel tunnel to Paris and Brussels, was operating normally.

Just a handful of other trains were running in the morning rush hour as most of the 12,000 drivers belonging to the union Aslef heeded a strike call, dashing hopes by employers that many would turn up for work as normal.

Up to 18,000 passenger trains are expected to be cancelled during the day, losing British Rail, which runs the rail network, up to £10 million in revenue.

Airline and coach operators put on extra services to cope with expected demand from train commuters trying to find another way to get to work.

Roads into London - where 400,000 people usually travel to work by train - were busier than normal but not chaotic.

Some people took the day off work rather than struggle through heavy traffic.

The London Underground, not operated by British Rail, worked normally, but could be sucked into future strikes the union threatens.

All agree that First International Bank leads

Recent reports penned on the financial prowess of the First International Bank

First International Bank provident and mutual funds top Globes 1994 rating.

"Ahead of all other banks, in periods of boom and bust, at both high and low risk"
"Globes", January 1995

"Ha'aretz" mutual fund survey:
"Only one bank managed to outshine the other banks - the First International Bank."

A review of the equity-oriented funds shows that their yield was far higher than those of other banks. Indeed, over the past five years, the First International Bank's largest share-oriented mutual fund Mor, has provided the highest yield within the mutual fund sector - 217.1% or 26% in annual real terms.
"Ha'aretz", 2.7.95

Bank of Israel staff choose the First International Bank
Bank of Israel employees have chosen the First International Bank Group to manage their Menifa provident fund deposits.
April 1995

Teachers choose First International Bank

The advanced study fund managements of the Israel Teachers Federation and the Post-Elementary School Teachers Association have transferred the management of their funds to the First International Bank Group. The transfer involves a total of NIS 2.1 billion from 110,000 members accounts.
July 95

"Risk Versus Yield - The First International Bank Leads"

"Bank of Israel staff measured each bank's entire range of risks according to the standard deviation of its profitability, over a relatively long period of nine years between 1986 and 1994."

"The First International Bank achieved an average profitability of nearly 10% over the past nine years, when it proved the safest investment in the banking system, with a standard deviation of almost zero."

"Ha'aretz" 16.6.95

A report by Baring Securities of London on the Israeli capital market states:

"The First International Bank is innovative and aggressive, strong loan and deposit growth should continue...one of the most profitable banks...with a balanced credit portfolio...FIBI is in the best position to weather the forthcoming structural changes in the banking sector."

May 1995

A report on the Israeli banking system by

Furman and Sel: of New York states:
"First International Bank is a stand-out versus other international banking comparisons, with operating margins of 38%, net margins of 17-18%, a dividend yield of 4.5%, plus excellent management and a conservative balance sheet and lending policy."
January 1995.

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Greenpeace calls for anti-nuclear flotilla

PAPEETE, French Polynesia (Reuters) - Cheered by thousands as they sailed back into Tahiti, Greenpeace activists appealed for a massive international protest flotilla to assemble at France's Pacific nuclear test site.

Greenpeace spokeswoman Stephanie Mills said the environmental group was seeking to turn its protests against French plans to resume nuclear tests into a huge chorus of international opposition.

"We want to turn the small message in a bottle into a massive flotilla of boats representing human beings around the planet," Mills said aboard the Rainbow Warrior, the Greenpeace flagship. "The Rainbow Warrior will return to Mururoa," she said of the South Pacific atoll where the ship was boarded by commandos using tear gas last Sunday as it entered a French 20-km exclusion zone around the test site.

"We will return with many other vessels," Mills said shortly after the ship arrived back in Tahiti from Mururoa.

She said 50 boat-owners from Australia had already volunteered to join a protest flotilla at Mururoa, where French President Jacques Chirac has said a series of eight nuclear tests would begin in September.

Oscar Temaru, leader of an independence movement for French Polynesia, said three decades of atmospheric and then underground tests in the Pacific had led to pollution, sickness and handicapped children.

"They can't tell us that the French bomb is clean, it's not possible, it's inadmissible. We have seen the damage. There are hundreds of families who are victims of the nuclear tests," he said.

"The whole world has seen what's happening here and I'm sure that millions of people at this moment support us in our action," he added.

"This action is not over," he said. "We are not guinea pigs. We will fight to the end."

Tahitians turned Bastille Day into a carnival of anti-France and anti-nuclear protests as the Rainbow Warrior made a triumphant return to the island.

The crew paddled ashore in canoes and on rafts festooned with greenery and flowers to be greeted by 5,000 cheering supporters in Papeete, capital of French Polynesia.

The crowds joined much of the rest of the Pacific in trying to spoil Bastille Day, which marks a major event in the 1789 French Revolution in protest against nuclear testing.

Tahiti was 24 hours behind much of the rest of the region in protesting against Chirac's decision because it lies across the International Dateline.

(Continued from Page 1) Israel's position on the halt in the talks is that "of course, there's a violation. Operationally, the blow to the Americans is more serious" because it affects Christopher's "credibility" and is a bilateral matter for the US and Syria to address, the Israeli official added.

"The US position is similar. This bottom line is what the Americans agree on with us." The Americans are "more puzzled" than anything by the sudden shift and believe that "the Syrians surprised them," the Israeli official said.

The American source fell just short of outrightly blaming Syria, and instead diplomatically stated: "The Syrian are having doubts about the procedure that they agreed upon... It is important that when commitments are made by the parties, they are kept by the parties."



This undated photo shows five foreign hostages being held by armed members of the ethnic militant group Al-Faran at an unknown location in the mountains south of Srinagar, India. The hostages are (left to right): Dirk Hassert of Erfurt, Germany; Donald F. Hutchings of Spokane, Wash.; Keith Mangan of Middlesbrough, England; Paul Wells of London and Hans Christian Ostro of Oslo. (AP)

Kashmiris extend hostage deadline

News agencies
SRINAGAR

KASHMIRI militants holding five Western hostages said yesterday they had extended the deadline to execute their captives by two days, until tomorrow, following appeals by Amnesty International.

The little-known Al Faran group, in a written statement to Reuters in Srinagar, said the hostages would be killed if India does not release jailed Moslem militants by then.

"Al Faran has decided to extend the deadline to kill the hostages by two days," it said hours after releasing a picture of the two Britons, an American, a German and a Norwegian they abducted in separate incidents last week.

The picture showed the five captives squatting in a row in front of snowcapped Himalayan mountains, surrounded by eight partially masked gunmen training their Kalashnikovs on them.

Earlier this week, the kidnappers released a photo showing the hostages — an American, two Britons, a German and a Norwegian — with their hands bound by a rope.

The hostages are: Donald Hutchings, 42, of Spokane, Washington; Keith Mangan, 33, of Middlesbrough, England; Paul Wells, 23, of London; Dirk Hassert, 26, of Erfurt, Germany; and Hans Christian Ostro, 27, of Oslo, Norway.

John Childs, 41, of Simsbury, Connecticut, who was kidnapped July 4 with the other American and the two Britons, escaped from the captives Saturday and returned to New Delhi.

The statement said the London-based human rights group and several unnamed Western governments had appealed for the release of the hostages.

"Where were these saviors of human rights when thousands of Kashmiris were being killed by Indian troops and their human rights were being violated?" Al Faran asked.

It had earlier threatened to kill the hostages by last evening if India did not free the

group's jailed colleagues by then.

The statement came at the end of a tense day for Kashmiri officials and relatives and friends of the hostages, who waited next to a telephone for the rebels to make contact.

Despite attempts on both sides, the government and Western diplomats could establish no direct contact with the previously unknown Al-Faran, which even many militant groups operating in Jammu-Kashmir state say they do not know.

Indian forces are unlikely to try to free the captives in the mountainous ridges and glaciers where they reportedly are being held because that could start a shootout with the militants.

"The hostages are merely innocent tourists and are not responsible for the situation," said a statement read by Catherine Mosely, wife of a British hostage, on behalf of wives, girlfriends and relatives of the five captives.

"In the name of God, please release all five hostages immediately and return them to us," said Jane Schelly, wife of an American hostage. The four then cried.

Delays may reverse Angolan peace - Dos Santos

LUANDA (Reuters) - Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos has told UN chief Boutros Boutros-Ghali the country's fragile peace process could collapse if thousands more UN peacekeepers were not deployed soon.

Dos Santos said at a function in honour of the UN secretary-general on Friday night that the world body played a crucial role in the peace process aimed at ending Africa's longest-running conflict.

"I'd like to ask the secretary-

general for his personal emphasis on the deployment by the end of August of the promised UN blue helmets," he said.

The implementation of the peace accord signed last November between the Angolan government and Jonas Savimbi's UNITA rebels is running five months behind schedule and only 2,000 of the planned 7,600 blue-helmeted UN soldiers have been deployed.

Boutros-Ghali, on the second day of a visit to assess the peace

agreement was due to fly to Baidundo in the central highlands yesterday to meet Savimbi, who diplomats said had refused to go to the capital for security reasons.

Dos Santos said the UN peacekeepers had to be deployed soon to help quarter UNITA soldiers in camps during the demobilisation phase of the peace agreement.

"Unless these aspects are immediately addressed, even further delay may interrupt the continuation of the process resulting in

its possible reversal," dos Santos said.

The UN chief said after arriving in Angola from Rwanda that the nearly 20 years of conflict which killed more than 500,000 people and divided the Angolan people were now over.

"I'm very happy that the conflict that divided this country is over and reconciliation and the construction of peace will serve as an example in other countries at war in all of Africa and the rest of the world," he told reporters.

Russian army officers charged with looting millions in bonds

MOSCOW (AP) - Three Russian army officers have been charged with stealing millions of dollars worth of negotiable bonds from a bank in the Chechen capital of Grozny, an official said Friday.

Russian troops have been accused of widespread looting and armored vehicles loaded down with furniture, carpets and appliances were a common sight after Grozny fell to Russian troops.

But few have been charged and none accused of anything on the scale of the bank theft, which involves \$7.8 million worth of negotiable bearer bonds.

Vladimir Bobrinov, a spokesman for the chief military prosecutor's office, identified the suspects as a lieutenant colonel in army intelligence, a major and a warrant officer. Details of the case appeared in the daily Izvestia.

SYRIA

late-night meeting Thursday in Rabin's office, Ross phoned Christopher to alert him to the failure of the mission to reconvene the talks, the Israeli official said.

As the crisis developed last week, Christopher twice spoke with Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Shara, but to no avail.

Assad apparently remains suspicious of Israeli motives for the negotiations. The American diplomatic source said Assad is wary that Rabin is exploiting the Syrian track to "legitimize and facilitate deal-making on the other tracks."

Assad is specifically concerned that Israel is trying to wring concessions from Palestinians on self-rule by saying that if they don't yield, Israel will move forward with Damascus.

Despite the downbeat assess-

ments, State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns said Friday that the Americans "fully expect" the talks to continue, though no date has been set. He said "there is a real potential for convergence on key issues relating to security arrangements."

AMRAAM

(Continued from Page 1) properly assuaged," the paper quotes an industry source as saying.

"I think the significance here was we had not previously approved the release of any AMRAAM in the region," a source told Defense Week.

The AMRAAM sale represents a defeat for Russian President Boris Yeltsin and French President Jacques Chirac, who personally lobbied the UAE to purchase their products, the paper reports.

SHOHAT

(Continued from Page 1)

the redeployment, and the Treasury will offer options to reduce the costs, including delaying projects that are not urgent, as well as stretching out others over a period of several years.

Shohat noted that the budget will not stand in the way of the peace process. However, he said, since the budget is stretched to the limit, the government must make decisions that take into account the economy's capacity to bear those costs.

Windows 95 is ready

SEATTLE (AP) - After more than four years of development, the long-awaited update of Microsoft Corp.'s basic program for most personal computers will arrive in stores by next month.

Microsoft began mass production Friday of Windows 95, even though the Justice Department is considering a major charge before the software goes on sale Aug. 24.

Microsoft, the world's leading maker of personal computer software, will manufacture 1 million copies of Windows 95 a week at 12 locations around the country.

The anticipated release of Windows 95 has been touted as one of the most significant events in the software industry. The end of program development is rarely news outside a software company, but Windows 95 has been scrutinized publicly like none other because it succeeds a product used on more than 80 million PCs.

Release was delayed more than a year to work out the bugs. This week, the Justice Department outlined an antitrust theory that would keep Microsoft from selling Windows 95 with software to access its own planned on-line service. But prosecutors said they have not decided whether to file a case.

Rivals such as America Online, CompuServe and Prodigy must pay PC makers to install programs that access their services.

"We're moving forward. We don't worry about what might happen," Russell Siegelman, general manager of on-line services for Microsoft, said, shrugging off the threat.

Word that Windows 95 has gone into production may further excite Wall Street about the company. Microsoft's share price has climbed from about \$60 in March to more than \$100 this week.

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THE JERUSALEM POST

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האזנה מאלו

Expert: Test pregnant women for HIV

JUDY SIEGEL-ITZKOVICH

IN a contest between a pregnant woman's right to privacy and a baby's right to be born without AIDS, the Health Ministry backs the former, while some doctors and Jewish medical ethics experts are fighting for the latter.

Until a year ago, when US National Institutes of Health (NIH) researchers proved that giving infected pregnant women the anti-AIDS drug AZT can prevent HIV transmission in two-thirds or more of infants, the debate was just theoretical.

Since no one knew how to prevent babies from getting infected with the deadly virus, there wasn't much point in giving all pregnant women an HIV blood test, except perhaps to discover unknown carriers and inform their partners.

But the NIH discovery was a major scientific breakthrough. AZT (also known as zidovudine) is harmless to the mother and can save the child from a tortured death as a baby or child.

It reduces the transmission rate from one in four (when no drug is given) to one in 12.

Dr. Sanford Kuvin, founder and chairman of the Kuvin Center for the study of Infectious and Tropical Diseases at the Hebrew University-Hadassah Medical School, urges Israel to avoid the fatal mistakes of the US and adopt mandatory HIV testing of all pregnant women - even though the AIDS threat here is insignificant in comparison to that in America, Africa, Eastern Europe, Southeast Asia and other high-risk areas.

Kuvin, who is also vice chairman of the US National Foundation for Infectious Diseases, often appears to discuss the topic on prestigious US network shows like 60 Minutes.

He has also advocated mandatory HIV testing of medical personnel who perform invasive procedures and of patients before they undergo operations.

In a powerful editorial that appeared last month in the midst of a fierce public debate on mandatory vs. voluntary testing, *The New York Times* declared it was "simply irresponsible to let newborn babies go untreated while arguing the mechanics of how to help them."

Kuvin, a frequent visitor to Israel who has personally appeared before the Health Ministry's national steering committee on AIDS, conceded during his last visit that winning approval for mandatory testing in a rights-conscious society like the US is very difficult.

But he had good news. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) in Atlanta and the US Public Health Service in Washington, which set policy in this matter, announced on July 6 that it had prepared guidelines aimed at making AIDS counseling and testing routinely available to all pregnant women in the US.

"We have witnessed an unprecedented breakthrough in HIV prevention," said CDC director Dr. David Satcher. "Our challenge is to translate the science into action and provide for any pregnant woman who may be HIV-infected the best chance of preventing transmission to her child."

Statistics show that in both the US and Israel, heterosexual women are the group with the fastest growing rate of HIV infection.

There are an estimated 1.3 million HIV



The heated debate between a pregnant woman's right to privacy and a baby's right to be born without AIDS continues both here and abroad.

carriers in the US, plus 400,000 patients with full-blown AIDS. Some 7,000 HIV carriers in the US give birth each year, and 1,000 to 2,000 of their babies are infected. But since few pregnant women go for testing, all doctors can do is try to keep their babies alive as long as possible (with medical costs reaching \$500,000 per child).

The editorial noted that some pregnancy clinics encourage women to be tested, but surveys suggest that most infected women are missed.

"A vigorous effort is clearly needed... There is virtually no political appetite for imposing mandatory tests on pregnant women, so a strong voluntary approach is the only feasible alternative," *The Times* concluded.

Since AIDS was first identified over a decade ago, 57 Israeli babies have been born infected with HIV. The Health Ministry could not supply statistics on how many were born since the NIH discovery regarding AZT was made.

Kuvin warned the ministry against falling into complacency. "In 1992, I predicted the number of AIDS patients in Israel would double in four years; in fact, it has [already] jumped from 180 to 335."

The ministry says there are 1,400 reported HIV carriers, but there's no doubt the real figures are between 6,000 and 8,000. Most of them are unaware that they have been infected, and a considerable number of these may be fertile women. Voluntary testing is not working in the US.

Kuvin said testing all pregnant women here would cost \$300,000 - about the price of treating two infected babies until their

deaths. If the ministry looks merely at the cost-benefit side alone, and not the human side, it should adopt mandatory testing, he said.

Rabbi Dr. Mordechai Halperin, a gynecologist who heads the Schlesinger Institute for Medical Ethics and Halacha at Jerusalem's Shaare Zedek Hospital, said Jewish law clearly demands mandatory testing in the present circumstances.

"Rabbi Shlomo Dichovsky of the Supreme Rabbinical Court in Jerusalem has written about the general matter of an individual's privacy vs. the rights of a person harmed by protecting his privacy," Halperin says. "Ordinarily, a person's right to privacy is very important, but if protecting that privacy can result in someone being harmed, it takes second place. How much more so when we are dealing with a fatal, horrible disease that can be prevented."

Asked why leading rabbis have so far not spoken out on this aspect of the AIDS issue, he suggested that "they haven't been informed about the AZT discovery and just aren't aware of the problem."

Halperin said all pregnant women here are still routinely tested for syphilis (VDRL) without being asked; all newborn babies automatically have blood taken from their heel before being sent home to detect phenylketonuria and other genetic diseases, and no one asks their mothers for permission.

"Morally and practically, women can be required to undergo an HIV test during pregnancy," said Halperin. "This cannot be done without their knowledge and cannot be physically forced on a woman, but the state can apply sanctions to enforce

such a rule. If a woman is identified as a carrier, her privacy can still be preserved at the same time as her child is protected."

Halperin added that "the medical profession here is very conservative, but I have no doubt that in a year from now mandatory HIV testing of pregnant women will be established around the world."

Dr. Zvi Ben-Yishai, a virologist at Rambam Hospital who heads the national steering committee, initially said he strongly rejected the idea of mandatory testing of pregnant women.

"This isn't the US; the problem is too small to consider such drastic measures," he said.

Ben-Yishai was not enthusiastic even about voluntary testing, but said the steering committee "may discuss it" at its next meeting, although a date has not been set.

He said he wouldn't even consider a survey of pregnant women to see how many objected to mandatory testing, "because if even one opposed it, I would not advocate it."

But when this reporter presented Kuvin's data to Dr. Boaz Lev last week, the ministry's associate director-general, the official position seemed to soften.

"Dr. Ben-Yishai is now in favor of voluntary testing, and I expect the steering committee will present a recommendation to this effect in the future."

But he could not say when this would occur, and whether the ministry would, in fact, accept this expected recommendation. "There are also financial considerations, and I can't say now whether or not the cost of such a program would bar it from being implemented."

Parents treat autistic child who falls between the system's cracks

JUDY SIEGEL-ITZKOVICH

FOUR-year-old Noam Agassi has fallen between the cracks in the system. The bright child suffers from mild autism - a relatively rare condition for which there are no special institutions. However, untreated, it would be impossible for him to enter the regular school system.

Neither the Education Ministry nor the Health Ministry takes responsibility for preschool education for the "special child" before the age of three, and Alut (the parents' association for the autistic) has severe budgetary problems.

Thus parents are forced to fend for themselves.

Since Noam is a toddler, his parents - Adrian and Hillary Agassi of Givat Ze'ev - have been fighting to help him be as normal a child as possible.

They studied psychological, educational and medical journals to find a technique that might help. When they did find a technique that needs to be followed intensively on a one-to-one basis - the Lovas method of behavioral modification - they raised money, sent students to learn it and obtained a pre-fab caravan where Noam could get 30 hours a week of training.

Now, after nearly two years of work, the family has nearly run out of money for the program, which costs them nearly NIS 6,000 a month.

"Now that Noam is four, he's entitled to go to a special state kindergarten," says his father, a public-service lawyer who immigrated here from England. "He's been accepted to one in Jerusalem that combines autistic and regular children. But we are in a race against time. We want to make sure he advances enough to get into a regular first grade, so we'll continue with four hours a day of training in the afternoon when he returns from kindergarten."

Hillary recalls she had a trouble-free delivery and that Noam, the second of their three children, seemed to be a normal, very sociable baby.

But when he was 18 months old, "I realized that he didn't have any comprehension of words; he didn't understand what we were saying." The problem was eventually diagnosed as pervasive developmental disorder, or mild autism. "The various institutions have plenty of money to diagnose problems, but they don't have any [money] to treat them," adds Adrian.

They charge that Alut has spent millions on expensive buildings for older children and adults, but has no facilities for under-threes. Initially put into a small-sized group, Noam was completely unable to adapt. Experts the Agassis consulted said he needed massive instruction on an individual basis, but "no one told us what the options were."

They estimate that there are some 25 other children like Noam in the Jerusalem area who are not getting the individual behavioral-modification training they need.

They sent letters to Alut and its president, Leah Rabin, but say they were disappointed by the organization's unwillingness to help. Finally, the couple decided to establish a behavioral-treatment program for Noam near their

home - based on the work of Dr. Ivar Lovas, a developmental psychologist at the University of California at Los Angeles.

The Givat Ze'ev local authority provided the caravan; the family took out loans and solicited funds from donors to cover the hourly fees of students they trained in the method.

The Ashkenazi synagogue in Givat Ze'ev diverted money from a fund it had established to provide some financial help. Their health fund reimbursed them for a small part of their treatment expenses. But money is quickly running out. Pe'era Khodorov, the national director of Alut, praises the Agassis for their courage in taking on the difficult project of training their son individually. "We have met with them several times, and their needs are very legitimate. I'm sure Noam has greatly benefited from it, but an individual approach is extremely expensive. Alut has now granted NIS 175 a month to help them; this is the amount we give for autistic children of this age. We get all our funds from donations, and with 1,000 Israelis of all ages suffering from autism, we can't do more."

Khodorov agrees that the state will ultimately benefit by taking responsibility for the training of autistic children younger than three. "There is no doubt that the earlier the diagnosis and treatment, the better and faster they will advance, and many more will be able to attend regular schools."

The Lovas technique could be autism's equivalent of the Peto Institute's training of children with cerebral palsy. At first, the authorities were skeptical.

Parents took their children to the institute in Hungary at their own expense and put on so much pressure that eventually the government paid to send teachers to learn the technique at the institute over a period of several years.

The teachers returned and established facilities based on the Peto technique, which has greatly advanced the development of CP children.

Foreign professional journals that scientifically assessed the Lovas technique found it "improved adaptive behaviors - such as language and social skills - while decreasing disruptive behaviors such as aggression."

The painstaking technique involves object labeling, in which the child is rewarded for touching a named object; action labeling and turn taking, which involves cards and board games.

The trainer must give precise directions and use the exact same words in teaching a specific language item. Since difficulty with language is at the core of mild autism, a verbal explanation is not useful; the child must work very hard to figure out the message conveyed by the trainer.

The Agassis report that Noam is much improved: "He talks and communicates much better, but he still speaks at the level beneath his age and is socially inept," they note. "This age is critical in his development. But if we have to stop, he won't have the chance, and sending him to a special-education school will cost the authorities much more."

Teeth can handle hot-to-cold transition

Rx FOR READERS
JUDY SIEGEL-ITZKOVICH

My husband insists that it's bad for tooth enamel to eat hot foods and then cold foods immediately afterwards (or vice versa). He says it makes the enamel vulnerable to cracking. I don't think this is true. Who is right? R.P., Tel Aviv

Dr. H.S., a senior dentist at the Tel Aviv University school of dentistry, replies:

You are right. Tooth enamel is very sturdy and strongly bonded to the dentin. Even extreme temperature differences of food and beverages won't cause enamel to expand and contract the way delicate glass does, for example. You can eat ice cream and then immediately after that drink hot coffee, and nothing will happen.

I am a man in my 50s. In winter, I sometimes suffer from tiredness and mild depression. I have heard of light therapy. Is this effective? What type of light is needed? Can it be done at home? D.I., Jerusalem

Prof. Bernard Lerer of the psychiatric department at Hadassah-University Hospital in Jerusalem's Ein Kerem answers:

A specific wavelength of fluorescent light is used in light therapy. It is believed to increase the pineal gland's secretion of the hormone melatonin, which affects mood.

Light therapy is used in many parts of the world, and there is a fair amount of evidence that it can be effective in regions with little daylight. I have a number of patients who moved here from the US, where they were treated with light therapy. They brought their lamps with them and claim to continue to be helped by this treatment.

Psychiatrists in Jerusalem, however, rarely use light therapy. The amount of light that exists here in winter is greater than

it is in many countries in the summer, so we doubt that extra light would have much effect on melatonin production.

Medications can be very effective against depression. You should consult a psychiatrist. If you still want to try light therapy, ask him or her to look up the subject in the medical literature so you can be advised exactly what wavelength of light is needed. It should be similar to that of daylight but not cause any harm to the skin or eyes.

I keep telling my adult son that it isn't healthy to drink limitless amounts of diet cola. He asks what I base this on, but I have no real knowledge about it. Is it safe for all one's liquid intake to be diet cola? S.B., Jerusalem

Roni Baruch, a dietitian at Ichilov Hospital in Tel Aviv, responds:

Anything that is done in the extreme is not healthy. Diet cola, which contains the artificial sweetener aspartame, should be drunk only in moderate amounts. The label says how many grams of cola per kilo of body weight. Don't exceed that limit, as it can be harmful. In addition, cola has a lot of caffeine, and drinking large amounts can cause sleep problems and lead to dependence.

Rx For Readers welcomes queries from readers about medical problems. Experts will answer those we find most interesting, and replies will be printed in the twice-monthly column on the Health Page.

Write Rx For Readers, c/o Judy Siegel-Itzkovich, The Jerusalem Post, P.O.B. 81, Jerusalem 91000, or fax 02-389327, giving your initials, age and place of residence. Phoned-in queries will not be accepted.

Dental implants get a computer boost

HEALTH SCAN
POST HEALTH REPORTER

RESEARCHERS at the Hebrew University School of Dentistry say they have developed a computerized technique that accurately predicts the chance of dental and orthopedic implants being accepted by the body.

Prof. Yona Sela, Prof. Zvi Schwartz, Dr. David Kuchavi, Dr. David Amir and Prof. Michael Sela say implants are often used on humans without first trying them out on lab animals.

As a result, there are "many failures" months or even years after they are inserted.

Tens of thousands of dental (synthetic teeth) and orthopedic (artificial joints) implants are inserted in patients here each year.

The synthetic materials from which they are made are selected

because of their physical and chemical composition in order to withstand years of pressure and repeated movements inside the body.

However, the researchers say that up to 46 percent of hip-joint implants, for example, fail within 10 years of insertion.

Even if they don't all have to be replaced, X-rays show that up to 93 percent of them become loose.

Replacing orthopedic implants that have failed can require a more complicated and expensive operation than the one in which they were inserted.

The researchers used rats to examine material used in dental and orthopedic implants, performing exacting tests on their characteristics and effects.

These included studying how fast the rodents' bone tissue encircled the implants, and how prone they were to infection.

They concluded that certain types of implants are more successful in the long term than others.

Those made of titanium - certain glasses or ceramics for example - "take" better than those made of porcelain.

The scientists are continuing their research to find out the causes of infection that result in implant rejection.

500 recipes to keep you in the pink

POST HEALTH REPORTER

A new Israeli cookbook promotes not just what tastes good, but what's good for you.

The Hebrew translation of the popular *American Heart Association Cookbook*, published here by Modan in a kosher version, contains 500 recipes in 600 pages. Following such a diet (and, of course, eating in moderation) can reduce blood-cholesterol and blood-pressure levels, and minimize your risk of heart disease. The Hebrew edition was prepared with input by Talia Tel-Avi Yesula.

The original English-language (nonkosher) version has appeared in 22 editions in the US - testimony to the popularity of its message. The American authors note that much has changed since the first edition appeared in 1973.

"Then, we only suspected that high levels of cholesterol are a major factor in heart attacks; today we are certain. Today, researchers are closer than ever to understanding the processes by which cholesterol and other fats in the blood contribute to the development of heart disease. We know more about how heredity has a role and how it works, in addition to the major influences

of lifestyle and environment. We can't control heredity, but we can choose our way of life. We can eat healthful foods, exercise and not smoke. We can try our best to control our blood pressure and over weight."

Despite the changes over more than two decades, dietary recommendations published in the Hebrew edition are not very different from those given in the first edition. More stress has been put on vegetarian dishes, which are much more popular today than in the early '70s.

The introduction bears a warning that it contains recommendations that cannot come instead of doctor's instructions.

Before getting into the recipes themselves, the book explains the causes of atherosclerosis (the clogging of the coronary arteries with fats) and the role of cholesterol and sodium (salt). A variety of heart-healthy menus are recommended for various age groups (under six, childhood, adolescence, adults and the elderly).

The attractive recipes cover appetizers, soups, stews, fish, poultry, meat, vegetarian main

dishes, vegetables, baked items, breakfasts and desserts.

Readers are urged to study product labels, as many processed foods contain hidden amounts of fat and salt. Be especially wary of packaged snacks and junk food. There is also advice on the best ways to cook, including use of the microwave for healthful eating.

People who like the natural juices produced when meat is broiled are advised to collect the liquid in a cup, refrigerate it and then remove the coagulated fat before using it to make a sauce. Readers are also advised how to substitute herbs and condiments for salt and to get used to a more natural taste. There is also helpful guidance on substitutes: low-fat cottage cheese and yogurt instead of sour cream; unsweetened cocoa powder, a bit of sugar and some polyunsaturated oil instead of bittersweet chocolate.

An unusual section at the end advises readers how to eat properly in restaurants. Two tips: go over the menu carefully before the waiter appears so you're not pressured into ordering unhealthy foods, and ask that sauces be provided separately.

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The Barak uproar

UNTIL he was interviewed on television last Thursday night, former chief of the general staff Ehud Barak was one of the most unflappable and self-assured personalities in public life. His calm demeanor, persuasive logic and mastery of the language made him a natural candidate for high office. To many, he seemed a natural successor to Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin as leader of the Labor Party.

That as a politician Barak would no longer enjoy the kind of impunity, let alone the near-reverence, with which he was treated as chief of staff was a natural expectation. That is the way it should be in a democracy.

But nobody - least of all Barak himself - foresaw he would have to undergo a merciless baptism of fire even before entering politics. Ten days ago he was the target of an ambush that is a politician's nightmare. It was an extensive, thorough and damning investigation by the country's largest newspaper into a tragic incident with which he is associated, and in which five soldiers of an elite unit lost their lives.

The timing of the story's publication makes it suspicious. The newspaper had all the pertinent facts six months ago. That it waited until the announcement of Barak's appointment to the government makes the story reek with political tendentiousness.

The paper's claim that had Barak not gone into politics there would have been no public interest in the story is disingenuous: the Tze'elim-2 tragedy and its aftermath are still a burning issue. Nor does it tend to reason that the paper concluded checking its facts precisely two weeks before Barak was to join the cabinet.

Even more puzzling is that the charges against Barak centered on his failure to help the wounded. The article alleged that he left the scene in his helicopter before the wounded were evacuated. This is such a transparent demagogic effort to play to the public's emotions that it undermines the credibility of the whole report.

As Barak himself said on television on Thursday, had he tended to the wounded instead of taking charge of the evacuation operation he would have been guilty of dereliction of duty, especially since the wounded were attended by a doctor and other qualified personnel. The chief of staff is not a medic, nor is it his duty to comfort the wounded. His presence at their side would not have helped anyone.

If the wounded had indeed cursed him for not coming to their aid, as the paper reports, it was an understandable, anguished cry of soldiers at a time of great pain and stress, not a reflection

on Barak's conduct. That it was mentioned in the story betrays poor judgment not on Barak's part but on the part of the paper.

If there is an aspect of the story that causes unease, it is the apparent contradiction between what Barak said to the investigatory committee immediately after the incident and his testimony to the Military Police seven months later. Essentially, the later testimony minimized the responsibility of Maj.-Gen. Amiram Levine for the tragic accident. This could have been a result of a more thorough study of the circumstances, as Barak claims; but a chief of staff should not have stated - even at a preliminary investigation - anything about which he was not absolutely certain.

But while Barak's performance at Tze'elim may have been satisfactory, his appearance on television was not. There was no trace of Barak the commanding general in the interview. His responses were so highly charged that they bordered on hysteria. Perhaps it was because his integrity as a military man was being challenged, but he assumed a stance of such shrill righteous indignation that it left doubts about his ability to stand the kind of heat to which political leaders must become accustomed.

It may make it easier for Barak to withstand such attacks if he understands that the ambush to which he was subjected was only partly motivated by immediate political considerations. True, Labor's "middle generation" resents his bagging an important ministry before "paying his dues" as an aspiring politician. There are also those in the Labor Party who begrudge his personal closeness to Rabin and envy his position as Rabin's possible successor. Others fear his relatively hawkish views. In a recent article in the *Washington Post* he expressed doubts about Israel's ability to defend itself if it relinquished the Golan, and - like President Ezer Weizman - he has recommended a suspension of the negotiations with the Palestinians.

But the enthusiastic collaboration of the press and the left in the assault on him has broader meaning. Barak's military record is one of the most distinguished in the country's history. Regardless of his performance as chief of staff, he symbolizes the imagination, daring and infinite courage that has made the IDF legendary. At a time when pride in the past is being replaced by defeatist self-flagellation, the attack on him is yet another exercise in today's trendy sport: the destruction of the state's credibility and integrity.



It's a frying shame...

THEY were clever, those folks from McDonald's, playing cat and mouse with us right up to the time they opened: Yes kashrut. No kashrut. Yes Shabbat - no Shabbat.

They clearly realized the risk in operating a Jerusalem branch of the ultimate fast food chain in a manner guaranteed to cause offense to a large segment of the population.

But open they did, and when the sky failed to fall in, McDonald's took off the gloves.

"Also on Sabbath days and holidays," proclaim the latest advertisements, "the new McDonald's in Jerusalem, open seven days a week."

It would be a mistake to dismiss this as just another restaurant inauguration. Those golden arches may well be the most widely recognized artifact of contemporary Western culture.

McDonald's promises a consistency of product and service, and they deliver.

The Jerusalem setting is impressive, and it will impact on neighboring retail establishments. Daily conversation in the area already includes shared information as to weekly specials and the components of a Big Mac.

In all likelihood, the success of McDonald's will engender two significant transformations: a diminution of the existing Shabbat atmosphere in the heart of Jerusalem, and the further proliferation of restaurants which, for lack of kashrut certification, are off-limits to many residents and visitors.

These potential changes represent the McDonald's corporation's flagrant insensitivity to the uniqueness of the city.

The character of Jerusalem does not lie in the old stones of the Western Wall, or the new stones of the Supreme Court building. It lies in the universal understanding that this place is special, that the peace that descends here every Friday after

DAVID S. RIBNER

noon cannot be experienced anywhere else.

Residents and visitors have found renewal in this atmosphere for millennia, and now, more than in any recent time, this legacy faces a grave threat.

Other international services have recognized that doing business in Jerusalem requires an additional perspective, and so must McDonald's.

Would it violate the existing norms of Lhasa, Mecca or Vatican City? Then why allow it to do so here?

With the imminent opening in midtown Jerusalem of mega-businesses such as Tower Records and Blockbuster Video, the preservation of the city's unique significance takes on new urgency.

Those who stand in front of McDonald's with protest signs channel well-meaning effort in a

nonproductive direction. They are too easily dismissed as fanatics, and they risk confrontation with the customers - a situation to be avoided at all costs. I would suggest that a combination of three other strategies may produce more significant results.

FIRST, the CEO of McDonald's is M.R. Quinlan, who can be reached at McDonald's Plaza, Oak Brook, Illinois, 60521, USA. Drop him a polite line suggesting that the Jerusalem branch conform to the city's values.

Keep in mind, though, that it is better for all concerned if McDonald's remains in Jerusalem, but under the same conditions that apply to Burger King, Pizza

Hut and Subway, who seem to be getting along just fine.

Secondly, local suppliers of McDonald's will reap significant profits from the current situation. They, too, should be made aware that many of us are dissatisfied with the status quo, and that this unhappiness may affect our use of their products.

Thirdly, rumor has it that those in charge of kashrut certification at the Jerusalem Religious Council have decreed that certification will be withheld from any chain having non-kosher branches elsewhere in the country. If true, this is a tactical error.

Saying "yes" to Burger King and "no" to McDonald's borders on the absurd. It also negates the message that a company is welcome if it recognizes that doing business in Jerusalem demands different standards. The Religious Council should be encouraged to assist McDonald's with meeting those standards.

We are not the only region in Israel engaged in this struggle with the McDonald's people. The residents of the Golan Junction area have already succeeded in changing the gaudy inappropriate presentation of their local franchise, and may be on the verge of achieving kashrut certification. So much for the immutability of multinational corporations.

In many ways Jerusalem expresses the ongoing struggle to blend tradition with contemporary society.

Some 3,000 years of history have not locked this city in time, nor burdened it with dusty relics. Through those centuries Jerusalem has symbolized not only our ancestral roots, but the very life and energy of the Jewish people.

If we lose that which anchors this city to our traditions, we will have lost a battle for Jerusalem far more significant than any question of territorial boundaries.

The writer teaches at Bar-Ilan University's school of social work.

The sounds of silence

ALVIN SHUSTER

I admit to a romantic attachment to the typewriter. I admit to assisting two Underwoods, three Olivettis, four Olivettis and two Royals to huddle in a corner of my garage, as if hiding from the Internet.

I will never sell them, even though I've been offered as much as \$1 apiece.

These are old and dear friends who have accompanied me on stories in Saigon, Belfast, Rome, Addis Ababa and elsewhere, and they can continue to feel safe.

Particularly secure is the one that has not been unwrapped since the movers packed it in 1967.

So has the time really come for the world to say good-bye? Say it isn't so, Smith-Corona, the 113-

I'm not one to stand in the way of progress, but I don't want to be disloyal to old friends

year-old company that has just filed for bankruptcy.

The laptops and home computers are on the verge of a complete and total victory, and perhaps they deserve it.

I'm not one to stand in the way of progress - but at the same time, I don't want to be disloyal to old friends. They should be honored and remembered.

Did my Royal ever ask me to identify myself before it went to work? Did my Olympia portable ever interfere with the guidance system of an intercontinental ballistic missile?

Customs-officials never looked twice at those worn leather cases, although a colleague did attract a bit of attention with his Gucci case.

You could drench those portables with coffee and they would love it, ask for more and continue working. They thrived on ashes, never coughed, and never flinched during a power failure.

The only thing you plugged them into was your brain. And if reporters came down with pain from what is now called RSI, they didn't know it, and usually attributed the discomfort to an abundance of elbow bending.

But that's another story.

THE TYPEWRITER crowd loved the rhythm of the things. They clicked and banged, and one could tell by the sound and fury who was working, and how hard. To watch a writer hunt and peck with two fingers was a joy to behold - and to hear.

There is just too much silence today. I could be playing computer solitaire at this very moment. Who would know?

And as for that "spell check" on the modern mechanisms, who needs it? Typewriters forced us to stop and spend time with a book called a dictionary. You had a break, your eye wandered, and while looking up the spelling of "loupe," you might well stop for a second or two and review the meaning of "love," just across the page.

Perhaps, above all, typewriters allowed for a separation of the senses. There are those of us who like to write, those who like to read, and those who like to watch television. Now we write, we read, we watch, all at the same time. My Underwood would be overwhelmed.

And how sad it was to call a few secretarial schools in the Yellow Pages only to find not a single one that offered lessons on a typewriter. "Maybe a junior college somewhere," I was told. I understand.

What a joy it was to know my friends. What a joy it is to know that mine are safe and secure. And what a joy it was recently to wander into Hemingway's home in Key West and see his Royal sitting there, a monument to what those wonderful, simple machines can produce.

I know it's wrong. But I like to think that if Ernest had had a PC, *The Sun Also Rises* would not have been the same.

Good luck, Smith Corona.

(Los Angeles Times)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

RALPH REED'S VISIT

Sir, - A proposed official visit to Israel by Ralph Reed of the Christian Coalition has been quashed by Israel's Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin, according to a report by *Metrowest*, a New Jersey Jewish paper. On the face of it, this is an astonishing bit of news. After all, Mr. Reed is one of the most influential young leaders to come on the American political scene in some time. His youthful enthusiasm and his straightforward message have made him a favorite with the media. He has access to most of the decision-makers in Washington, and given the new Republican Congress, his importance has grown. In short, Ralph Reed is the kind of guy a foreign minister would want to cultivate rather than alienate.

So what is it that makes Beilin react so strangely? Could it be that Mr. Beilin sees Reed as too far from him in political philosophy? Has Mr. Beilin, perchance, read Ralph Reed's new book *Politically Incorrect*?

In his book, Reed's basic message is that "people of faith represent one of the largest segments of the electorate (24 percent according to 1992 exit polls) and they want a role in society commensurate with their numbers." He says that "religious people are not part of America's problem but part of its solution." According to Reed, "Religious values are not a threat to democracy; they are essential to democracy."

Reed laments that in recent decades, "the Bible, once acknowledged as the repository of the greatest intellectual and moral traditions THE NEW MIDDLE EAST

Sir, - Why should the PA autonomy zone be made *Judenrein* while Arabs are peacefully settled in their villages, live, work and move about undisturbed within the Jewish state, without fear and without the expensive protection, costing hundreds of thousands of shekels per family, as Mr. Rabin figured out recently in his speech about the security of the Jewish settlers.

Where and on which side of the fence are the "racists"? Or is it the much-touted democracy of Mr. Peres's "New Middle East"?

LOITTE AND ELI PINTER

Haifa.

JERUSALEM CORRIDOR

FIRE

Sir, - From time to time tragedies occur in Israel - some that could have been prevented, others not. To decide this is beyond my expertise; however, it never ceases to amaze me how everyone is shocked when there is a sloppy response.

Why are we shocked when a country run sloppily, by sloppy people, has a lousy response?

Every time I visit, I can't help noticing the lack of discipline, starting from the moment one arrives at Ben-Gurion passport control, the taxi driver, the hotel receptionist and of course the police and army. Not only is it a lack of discipline, but it borders on missing pride in what they are doing. Maybe they should dress properly and they would feel like people who want to fulfill their task.

On the other hand, when the highest officials of the country act in a sloppy (and dishonest) manner, it comes at no surprise that it trickles down.

Zurich.

ALAN GALE

FOREST FIRE

Sir, - I was deeply shocked and saddened by the news of the terrific forest fire near Jerusalem.

Knowing the importance of the forestry in Israel, especially around Jerusalem, I intend to organize here an appeal for funds for the replantation of the devastated areas as soon as only possible.

When a few years ago a similar incident happened on Mount Carmel near Haifa, I initiated a similar appeal amongst my many friends here, and I managed to transfer to the mayor of Haifa a nice small amount of money.

Being an old-age pensioner of 93 years of age, an ardent reader of your paper so as to be informed of what is going on in my beloved Israel, I assume that you will be able to let me know where I should send the money to, as soon as I collect some.

London.

The Jewish National Fund (P.O.B. 283, Jerusalem) will certainly be happy to handle such contributions. - Ed. J.P.

PICTURE POSTSCRIPT



BELLE OF THE BALL - Mike, a 9-year-old orangutan, is escorted by two comely humans to his wedding. It was a mixed marriage: Mike is from Thailand, and his bride Sue-Sue is Taiwanese. Some 3,000 guests, all of a higher order, were invited.

(AP)

هكذا من أكله

AMERICAN OUTLOOK

Sunday, July 16, 1995



Lift the embargo? Clinton rethinks this Bosnia strategy

The European policy on Bosnia assumes that the West's interest lies not in punishing aggression, or in securing the integrity of Bosnia, but in muting intra-NATO squabbles and stabilizing the chaotic Balkans on just about any terms. After attempting to execute this policy, the Clinton administration is poised to take a different course in Bosnia.

BY CHARLES LANE

Should the arms embargo against Bosnia be lifted? For the first four months of his administration, President Clinton built his Balkan strategy around a "yes" answer.

Instead, for the last two years, the administration has been following Europe's lead. The European policy keeps the embargo and limits Western involvement to the use of neutral U.N. peacekeeping troops and humanitarian relief. Though rarely stated so baldly, the policy assumes that the West's interest lies not in punishing aggression, or in securing the integrity of Bosnia, but in muting intra-NATO squabbles and stabilizing the chaotic Balkans on just about any terms. Since the Serbs are the strongest party, the best hope is to give them what they want. The Muslims' role is to accept their fate.

It's clear now that this strategy has failed. The Serbs simply would not be appeased. They rejected both the 1993 Vance-Owen plan and the 1994 Contact Group plan, though both were accepted by Sarajevo and though both ratified Serb ethnic cleansing.

Basically, the Serbs rejected the peace plans because they felt strong enough to get away with it. "As long as the planet Earth has been in existence," Serbian commander General Ratko Mladic has said, "borders between states and peoples have been determined by the shedding of blood and the cutting off of heads."

Yet the British and French cling to their old strategy. And so does Clinton. Resisting Republican calls for a unilateral lifting of the embargo, he wants to help pay for the rapid reaction force, insisting the U.N. troops are still doing more good than harm.

Yet, while "unilateral lift" is certainly a morally defensible policy, it's not exactly the free lunch many Republicans seem to think. For one thing, it would exact a high price in diplomatic disruption. Even Sen. Bob Dole, formerly a fierce advocate of lifting the embargo, seems to be

backing down. On the other hand, a modified version of "lift and strike," launched in concert with European allies, might still work.

One reason such a strategy might work is that, contrary to European expectations, the Bosnian Muslims have turned out not to be so weak. Their army survived both the initial Serbian onslaught and the bloody 1993-1994 Croat-Muslim war. Even the arms embargo has eroded over the last two years. When a U.S.-brokered agreement ended the Croat-Muslim struggle in February, 1994, the Bosnian Army could once again import black market weapons from Iran and elsewhere, via Croatia.

The Serb Army is on the strategic defensive. Spread thin across 70 percent of Bosnia, plagued

The American objective would be pragmatic: to force the Serbs to negotiate, not to roll back all Serb conquests.

by desertions and on uncertain terms with their suppliers in Belgrade, the Serbs can neither easily defend their turf, nor mount a tactical retreat without undermining morale.

SERBS ADVANTAGE

The Serbs retain one decisive advantage, however: heavy artillery and tanks. Until this advantage is neutralized, the balance of forces will remain a formula for bloody stalemate. The solution is to persuade the Europeans to amend, lift, or sidestep the embargo and get heavy weapons to the Bosnians. It doesn't require a formal declaration by the U.N. Nor does it demand a massive U.S. airlift like the intentionally self-discrediting \$5 billion "plan" that the pro-embargo Pentagon leaked last fall. If the British and French want to preserve plausible deniability, the transfers can be done semi-covertly. The Saudis have offered to buy East-bloc weapons for the Bosnian army. Such gear is compatible with what Bosnia has now; to use it wouldn't require much, if any, American training.

There are risks. "There would be an interval before the heavy weapons were delivered to the Bosnian government and before they were trained

in their use," Gore said recently, "during which the Serb forces would attempt to surge and overrun Sarajevo and the eastern enclaves of Gorazde, Srebrenica, Zepa, and the carnage could potentially be just horrific."

More significant would be the impact on the U.N. peacekeepers. This has been the Europeans' trump card against lifting the embargo: Their men are at risk, Americans aren't. But this threat may be overblown. Many of the peacekeepers are deployed in Muslim-Croat areas, less exposed to Serb reprisals. The danger to the others could be reduced by intelligent redeployment. U.S. ground troops should assist in these relatively discrete tasks.

Belgrade might intervene. But Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic and his Yugoslav National Army are much weaker now than they were two years ago. Though Milosevic has continued to help the Bosnian Serbs, the power struggle between him and the Bosnian Serb leaders is real. Crippled by sanctions and enmeshed in a wrangle over borders with Croatia, the last thing Milosevic needs is full-scale war in Bosnia. He recently let the Croatians rout Croatian Serb forces from Western Slavonia. Having spent two years trying to get his Bosnian cousins to cut a deal, Milosevic might even secretly welcome new military pressure on them.

It's time for another high-level trip to Europe. Unlike Christopher's, the purpose would be to explain that the United States gave Europe's approach a shot and is now ready to chart a different course. It is prepared to use air cover and even a modest number of ground troops to protect European forces from threats that may arise when weapons begin to flow. The American objective would be pragmatic: to force the Serbs to negotiate, not to roll back all Serb conquests. Bill Clinton, understandably, is reluctant to open his re-election campaign with a new Bosnia policy. The payoff, however, could be a second term whose first 100 days are not consumed by yet another agonizing debate over how to stop the war in Bosnia.

(Charles Lane is a senior editor of The New Republic, in which this article first appeared.)

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Israeli opposition leader may strike out

BY ROWLAND EVANS AND ROBERT NOVAK

WASHINGTON - Nonstop faxes from Jerusalem to Capitol Hill, telling pro-Israel congressional hard-liners how to undermine the Mideast peace plan, may boomerang against the faxer, Benjamin Netanyahu, head of Israel's opposition Likud bloc.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's implacable foe "should be more careful," Sen. Jon Kyl (R-Ariz.) told us. That is noteworthy because Kyl happens to be a leading Republican skeptic of the peace process. He worries that President Clinton is pushing Israel too hard. He is also strongly against Clinton's plan to commit troops to a Golan Heights force if Israel and Syria finally settle. Thus, he opposes not Netanyahu's goals but his methods.

The faxes, signed by Netanyahu, are reaching congressional offices at an accelerating pace. Given their purpose of undermining Clinton, they appear to be an unusual intrusion into U.S. politics by a foreign leader whose chances to win Israel's 1996 election hang on defeating the peace plan pursued by Rabin and supported by Clinton.

FAXES

In a June 12 fax sent to selective congressional offices, Netanyahu quoted a statement he made in Jerusalem warning against international financing for the "corrupt" Palestinian Authority in Gaza and Jericho. He wants an American law banning it.

But supplying funds for the authority, which is controlled by the Palestine Liberation Organization, is a key element in Israeli and U.S. policy. Early this year, Clinton and Secretary of State Warren Christopher worked overtime to head off a congressional bill to do what Netanyahu asked. Score: Clinton 1, Netanyahu 0.

Although some pro-Likud American politicians agree that the PLO and its leader, Yasser Arafat, are "corrupt," they are tiring of Netanyahu's persistent, unsolicited advice. "We get stuff like this from him all the time," said a congressional source. "I wish he was a more stable guy."

A well-placed Israeli official, asking not to be identified, said the second round in Netanyahu's battle against Clinton involves congressional legislation to make it illegal for the United States even to talk to Arafat unless he complies with a rigid standard of conduct. Such a standard, the official said, "he could not possibly meet." Clinton also is winning that round. Score: Clinton 2, Netanyahu 0.

Israeli diplomats in Washington refuse to discuss Netanyahu's intrusion into Congress or his increasingly harsh attacks on Rabin.

Israeli diplomats in Washington refuse to discuss Netanyahu's intrusion into Congress or his increasingly harsh attacks on Rabin. But on Capitol Hill, Ambassador Itamar Rabinovich is sometimes jokingly referred to as "the fireman" because he spends so much time putting out fires set by the irrepressible opposition leader.

FINAL ROUND

The third and toughest round is yet to come: the legislation to ban U.S. troops from the Golan Heights if Israel withdraws. Retired Adm. Bud Nance, Senate Foreign Relations Committee chief of staff and close adviser to Committee Chairman Jesse Helms, told us Senate sentiment is running "very strong" against American troops on the Golan.

But Rabin has privately advised Clinton that a small military presence, similar to the force that has patrolled the Sinai since the Camp David accord in 1978, is essential to sell Syrian peace to Israeli voters.

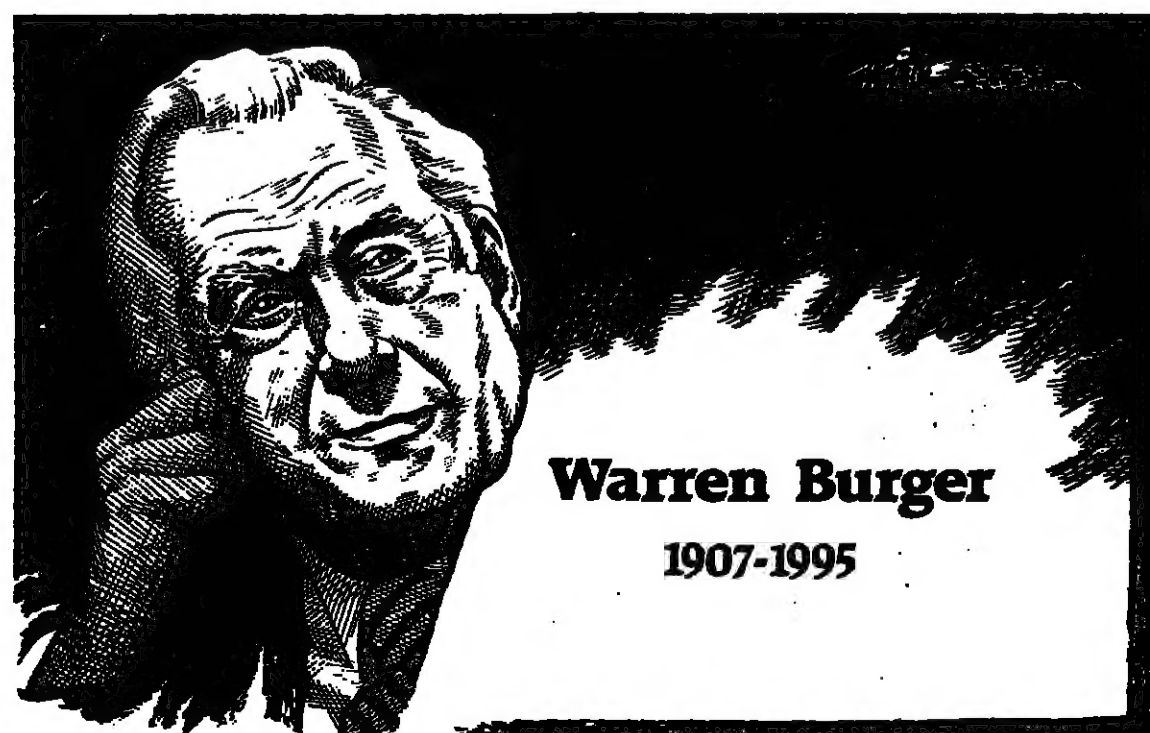
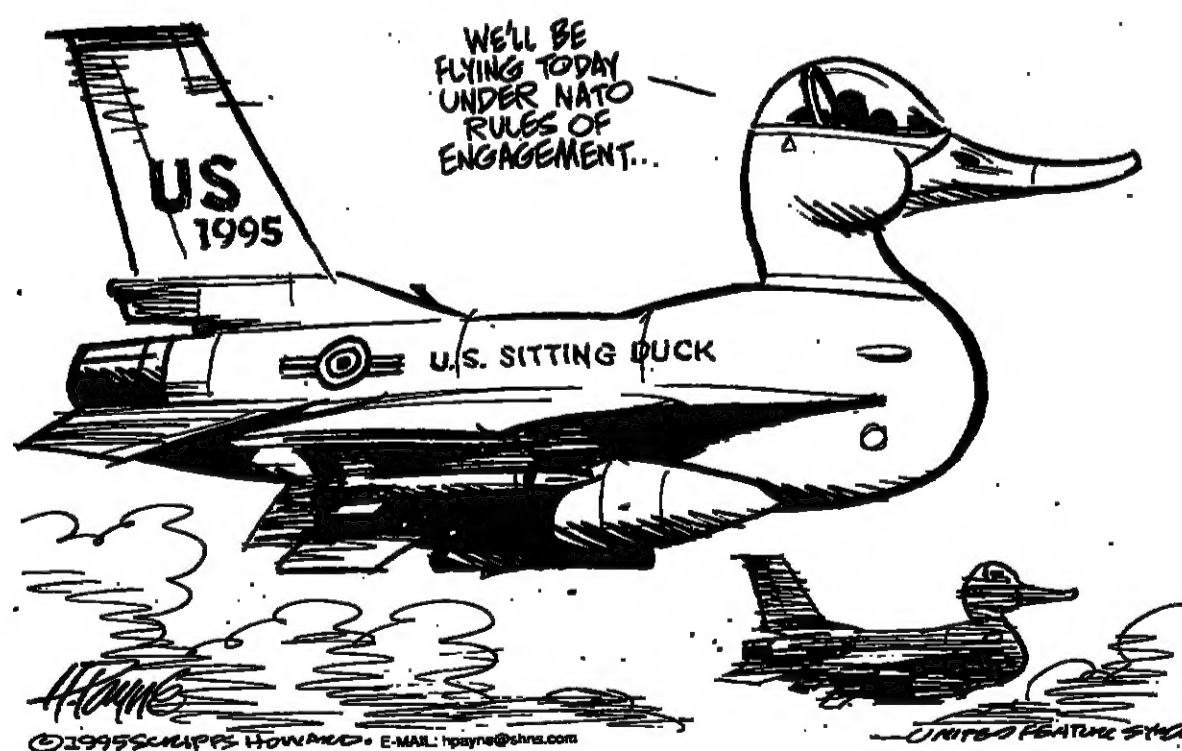
Killing this proposal is now Netanyahu's political imperative, and his torpedo faxes are so targeted. Kyl told us he delayed his legislation banning U.S. troops "out of deference" for Dennis Ross, Clinton's chief Mideast negotiator. Working under Clinton, Ross is showing muscle. Kyl will move later, but it then may be too late.

The outcome of this round is crucial to Rabin, but for Clinton, the glory of being the president to bring home Arab-Israeli peace after half a century of wars could sound a climactic trumpet in a tough re-election campaign. Netanyahu may not understand that with Clinton eyeing such a reward, the odds look prohibitive that the Likud leader will lose round three. That would make the final score Clinton 3, Netanyahu 0.

Robert Novak is a nationally syndicated columnist of the Chicago Sun-Times. Rowland Evans occasionally contributes to this column.

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EDITORIAL CARTOONS



Serbs tap water supply

BY ANNA HUSARSKA

There is no apparent reason why you should think about the Bosnian war victims when you flush your toilet. So why does the headline "SEVEN KILLED IN SARAJEVO SUB-URB" suddenly turn your rather banal gesture into something with relevance to the war in Bosnia? Because those seven people, now dead, were standing in line, hoping to collect in their bottles and jerrycans some water to drink, to wash or to cook with, and these days their daily home consumption is roughly equivalent to the amount you flush every time you use the toilet.

In television pictures, we see Sarajevans mostly when they are running under Serb sniper fire or crouching along behind white U.N. armored cars in order to cross the street. But until April 1992, Sarajevans were living a normal life, so civilized that flushing a toilet was a banal gesture for them, too.

The day after I arrived here a few weeks ago, my friend Jasna was all upset. "It's because of water," she said. Water? Of course she had no running water! Neither did I in the old town where I was staying at my friend Braco's apartment, and neither did any other Sarajevo resident I knew. This had been the case for the whole city since the end of May and intermittently since the beginning of the war more than three years ago. I had long ago learned that waterwise it was more pragmatic first to wash and then to use the toilet. "What's the big deal?" I asked myself, although I knew it was a patronizing question that I would be ashamed of.

It turned out that Jasna had special reasons for her consternation: a neighbor had knocked at her door in the middle of the night to announce that water was trickling from the tap. In no time, Jasna's household was on their feet, awakened by the tantalizing prospect of immersing themselves in a bathtub, of taking a shower, of washing clothes. Jasna's mother went as far as emptying the bathtub of the water collected there long ago and used for rinsing so often that it was now good only for flushing the toilet. But, by the time the bathtub was empty, the water had stopped trickling. No wonder Jasna was upset. The rainwater her household had accumulated the week before was all it was left with.

What Jasna felt was more humiliation than inconvenience. "How can they do this to us?"

"They," of course, are the Bosnian Serbs, who have been besieging the city since April 1992 and who have control over the water valves at Bacevo field, near the suburb of Ilidza. (Before the war, the wells at Bacevo supplied more than 80 percent of Sarajevo's drinking water.) The Bosnian Serbs can turn the water on and off as they please.

"The use of water for offensive or defensive military purposes is an ancient strategy," says the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), which last year organized a symposium on the subject "Water in Armed Conflicts." But, as the ICRC materials demonstrate, in no other war have water valves been used in such a premeditated way. From the point of view of the Serbs it is remarkably simple: as soon as they turn off the water, Sarajevans come out in the streets with their bottles and their jerrycans on their shoulders, or in wheelbarrows, pushcarts or baby prams and become easy targets for mortar fire and snipers. It is a way of smoking them out.

It is difficult to imagine the joy that descended upon us all when we actually collected our water.

The virtual Serb monopoly on Sarajevo's supply of drinking water is what prompted Fred Cuny, the founder of Intersect Relief and Reconstruction, to come up with an alternative source. In 1993, with funding from the Soros Foundation and practical help from the International Rescue Committee, his company designed and installed two emergency water purification plants, Miljacka and Moscanica, which have been working for several months now. The two plants that Cuny built produce 180 liters per second, 10 times less than the Bacevo wells, but a good deal more than the 35 liters per second produced by the Brewery, the only other source of drinking water in Sarajevo.

Many Sarajevans know that they owe the alternative water supply system to "Mister Cuny," and they asked me whether there was any word of his whereabouts since he disappeared in Chechnya in April. They would probably agree with the MacArthur Foundation that he is worthy of a "genius" award. By providing them with some water he restored to them some dignity.

It's clear, though, that even Cuny's ingenuity couldn't really

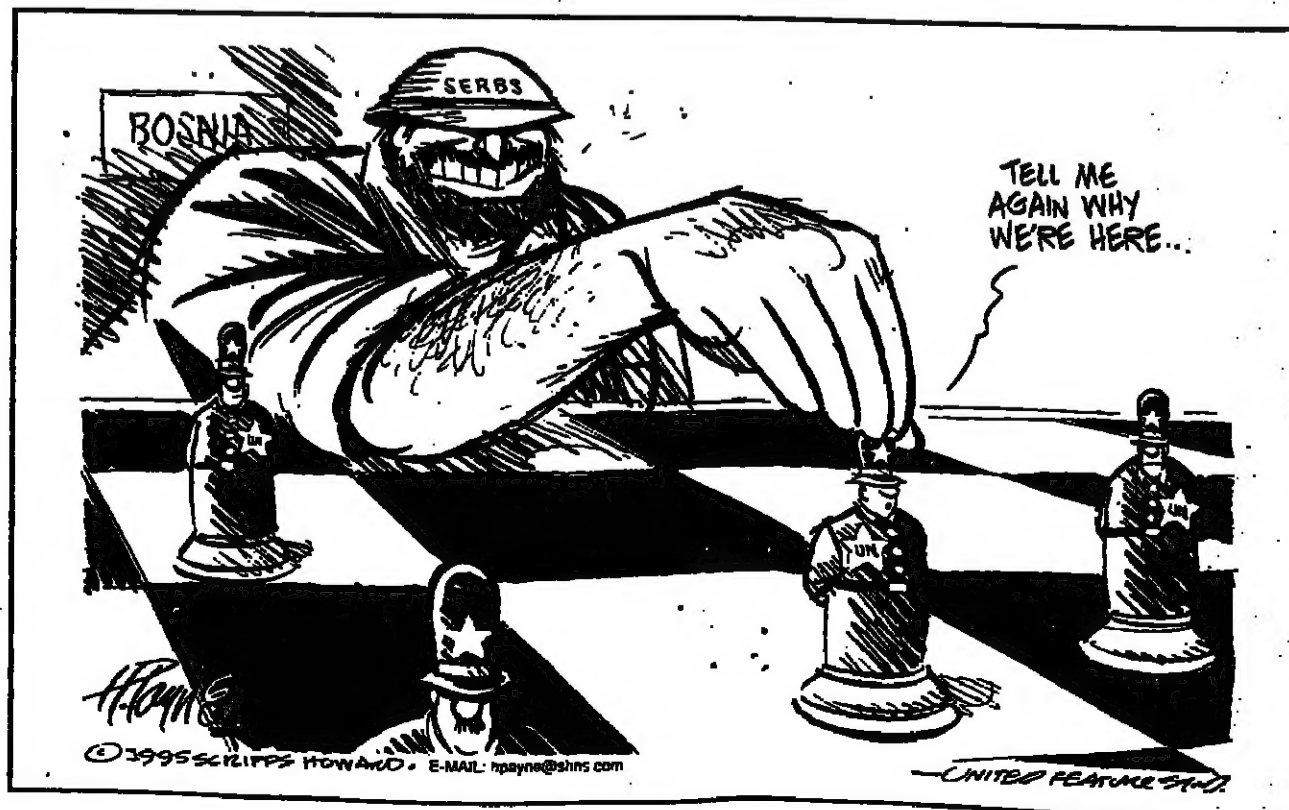
solve Sarajevo's water crisis. Pierre Verstraeten of the International Management Group, which is in charge of water at the Office of the Special Coordinator for Sarajevo, recently called to my attention another problem: Since the airport has been closed for over two months and the land roads are blocked by the Serbs, it is becoming increasingly difficult to get enough chlorine for water purification. And because so many pipes have been damaged by shelling, about 70 percent of the water is lost due to leakage. Now, leakage out means leakage in, which is why purification is so important. At the beginning of the war, when Sarajevans relied on hand pumps, they had little purification pills: white for two liters and green for five liters. The trick was to get hold of a jerrycan whose volume corresponded to the color of the pill you had. Otherwise, you had a painful dilemma.

And there's another glitch: the distribution network for the water from Cuny-made purification plants runs on diesel, which is also in short supply, so the water is diverted to several spigot points in the city rather than into the municipal water system (the latter would use more diesel). And those spigot points are what Serbs aim for.

Since I was a guest in a regular Sarajevo home, I made it a point to bring a jerrycan of water every day. But then my friend Seo managed to get a few liters of gas and we drove to the Brewery in Seo's car, which we piled high with huge water containers destined for Braco's apartment and for Jasna's parents (who needed cheering up after their night of false hope), with a few plastic bottles to fill for an elderly neighbor and with jerrycans for Seo's in-laws. It is difficult to imagine the joy that descended upon us all when we actually collected our water: Braco shaved, we watered the scallions on the balcony (the seeds of which were brought in last spring through another of Cuny's pet projects). Jasna did some washing, Braco's girlfriend rinsed her hair. I knew I would be leaving Sarajevo shortly so I could afford to be chivalrous and remain slightly on the dirty side. It was not unlike the scene in a classic Sarajevo joke about Sujo (Suleiman) and Muyo (Mohamed). Sujo comes to visit Muyo: "Coffee?" offers Muyo. "No, thanks, I just had one," says Sujo. Muyo beams: "Oh, good, so I'll be able to take a shower."

Anna Husarska is a contributing editor to *The New Republic*.

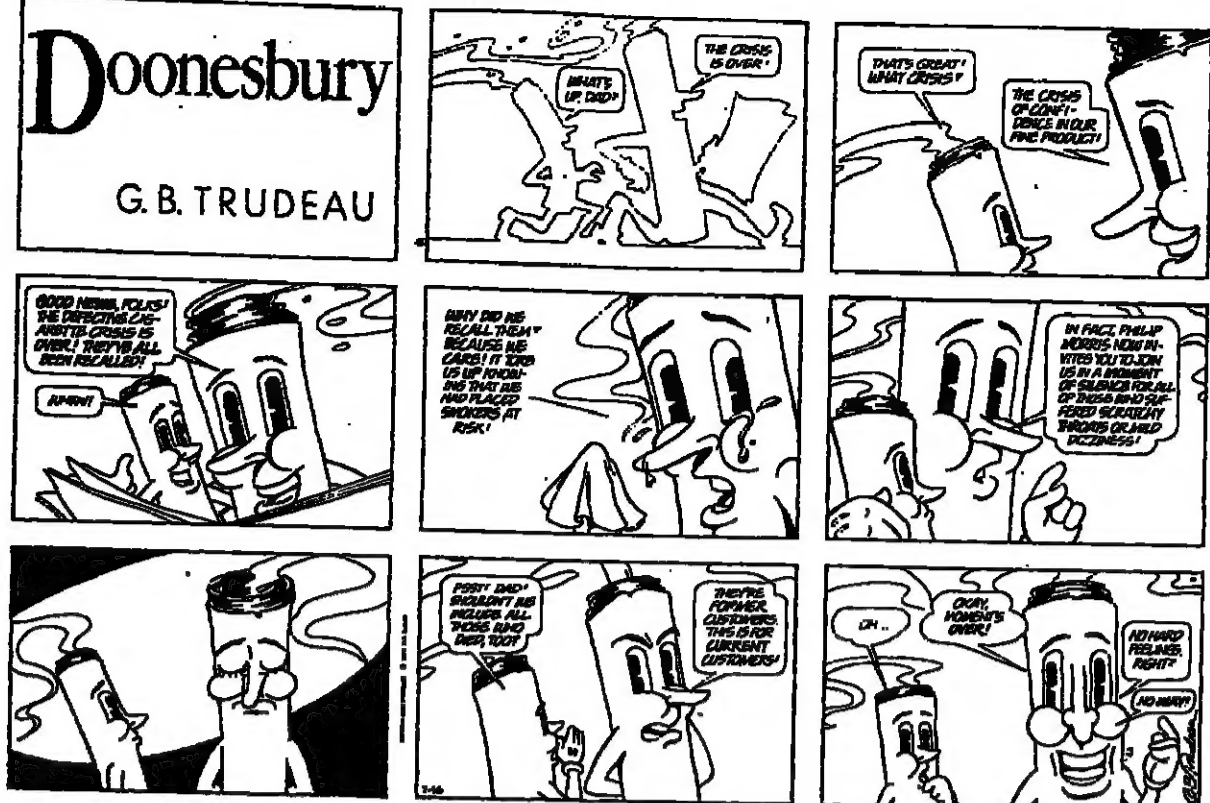
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SUNDAY COMICS

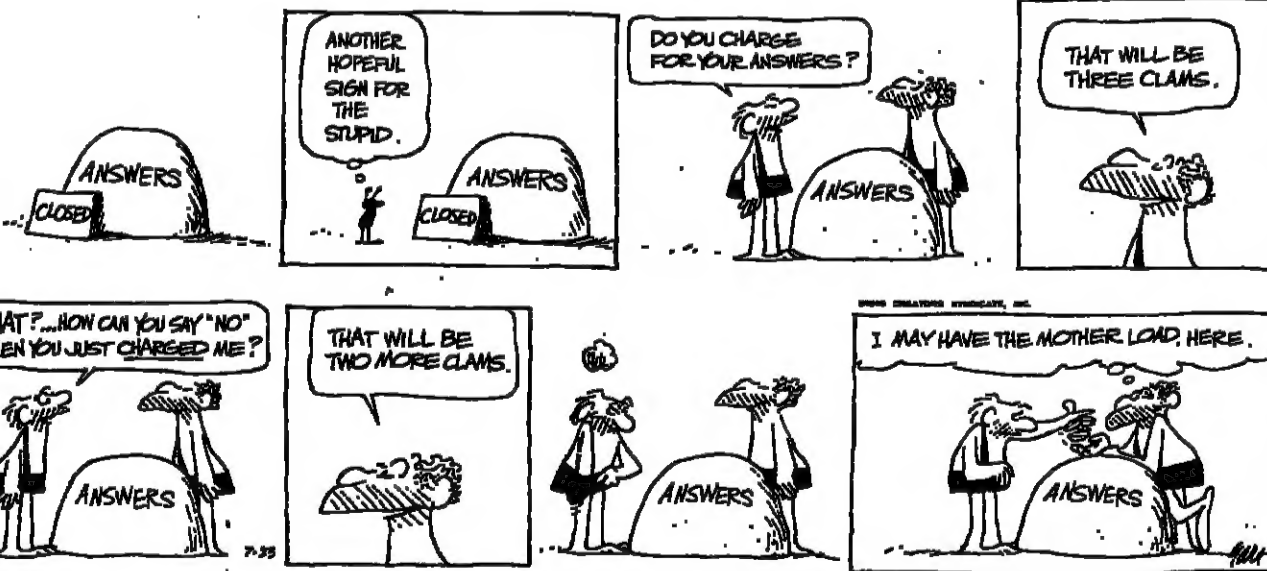
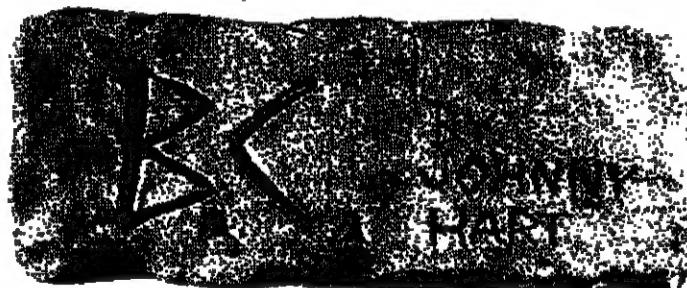
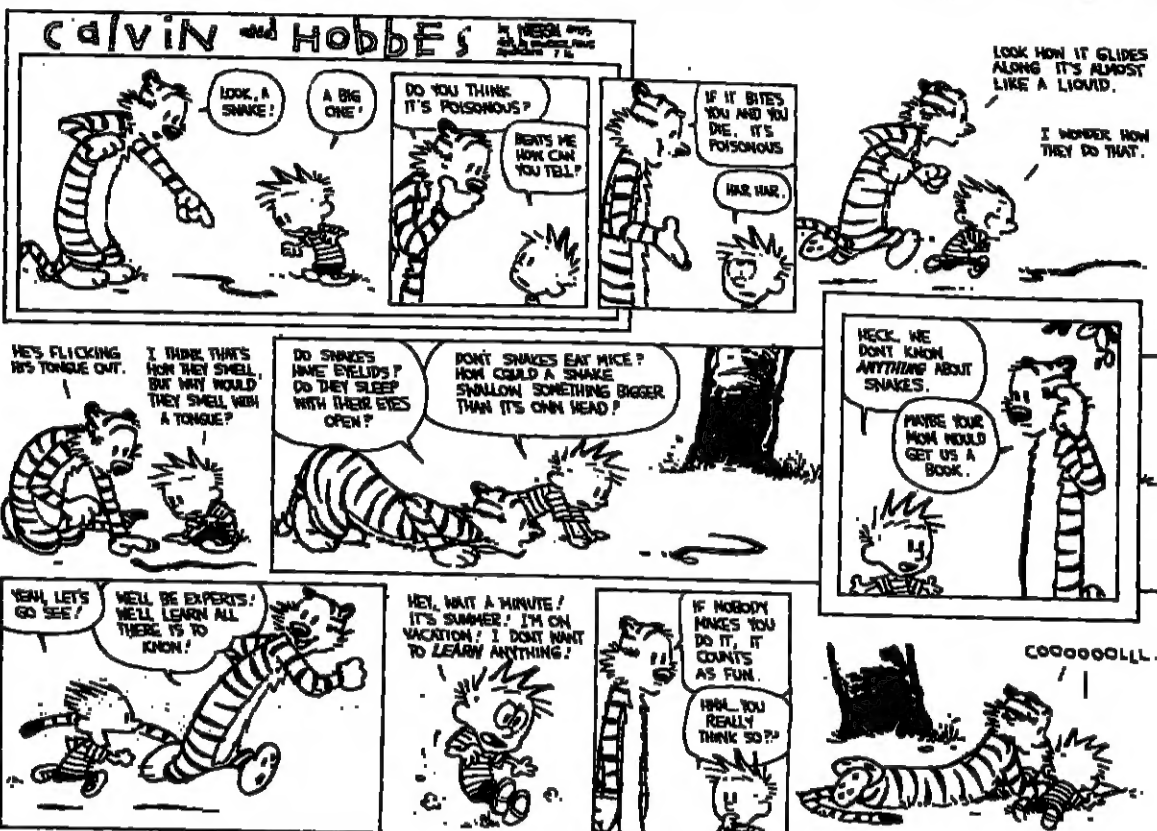
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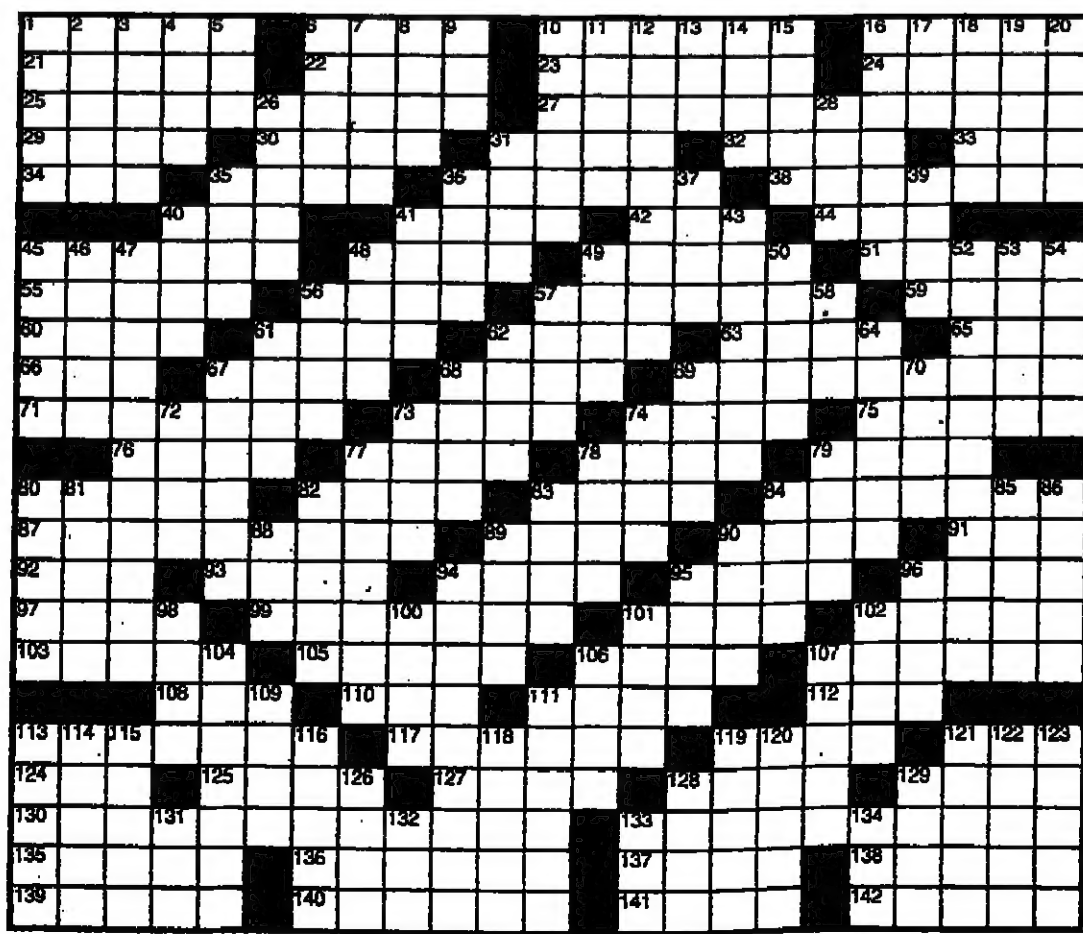
PEANUTS

by Schulz



TODAY'S SUNDAY PUZZLE

- ACROSS**
- 1 Milan's La —
 - 6 Seed coat
 - 10 Press
 - 16 Malcolm — Warner
 - 21 Fumigated with
 - 22 Delay or Carvey
 - 23 Sound system
 - 24 Florida city
 - 25 Certain Southern
 - 27 Refugee receptacle
 - 28 — "Kareena"
 - 30 — Bazar, Mongolia
 - 31 Satellite
 - 32 Eye drop
 - 33 Harbor boat
 - 34 Part of a journey
 - 35 Author Harter
 - 36 Sibling
 - 38 Formal order
 - 40 Visual aid
 - 41 Abrupt
 - 42 Pull
 - 44 Lulu memento
 - 45 Struck
 - 46 Vodka
 - 49 Shipshape tip
 - 51 1945 conference
 - 52 Inexpensive
 - 53 Short test
 - 57 Breakfast treat
 - 58 Author Anita —
 - 60 Talk wacky
 - 61 Ship's body
 - 62 Aka's brother
 - 63 Oyle
 - 65 Black cuckoo
 - 66 Museum
 - 67 Mine yield
 - 68 Poet Teasdale
 - 69 Convicted
 - 71 College's country
 - 73 Court (on)
 - 74 Whitstand
 - 75 San Diego player
 - 76 Swiss river
- DOWN**
- 1 Katey — ("Peggy Bundy")
 - 2 Hag
 - 3 In the company of
 - 4 Caster's mother
 - 5 Commotion
 - 6 Confound
 - 7 Capital of Morocco
 - 8 Privy to
 - 9 Not ecclesiastical
 - 10 Help
 - 11 Circus worker's
 - 12 Air rifle
 - 13 " — I saw Elton"
 - 14 Penny
 - 15 Tribal symbol
 - 16 Trip
 - 17 Play part
 - 18 Mediterranean
 - 19 Alaska native
 - 20 Bay
 - 21 Enriched
 - 22 False god
 - 23 Company
 - 24 Use a paper
 - 25 Egyptian canal
 - 26 Bakery product
 - 27 Watch part
 - 28 Three-headed
 - 29 Card game
 - 30 Spiral
 - 31 Fortunat
 - 32 Bony animal
 - 33 Chicago airport
 - 34 N.Y.C. area
 - 35 Influence
 - 36 Operatic song
 - 37 Very small
 - 38 Of a city
 - 39 Met unit
 - 40 Restaurant
 - 41 Togo
 - 42 Island dance
 - 43 Carried fish
 - 44 Inlet
 - 45 Harem room
 - 46 Use the phone
 - 47 Fruity spread



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Equal opportunity critics

BY RICHARD KAHLENBERG

On April 9, House Speaker Newt Gingrich appeared on "Face the Nation" and made an extraordinary statement about affirmative action. He said, "I'd rather talk about how do we replace group affirmative action with effective help for individuals, rather than just talk about wiping out affirmative action by itself."

Gingrich proposed providing special help for people "who come out of poor neighborhoods, who come out of poor backgrounds, who go to schools in poor counties." The statement went largely unreported. Perhaps the press simply didn't believe his newfound concern for the poor. But logically Gingrich's statement flows directly from one of the classic criticisms of affirmative action: How is it fair to give a black doctor's son a preference over a white coal miner's daughter? Implicit in this critique is the sense not only that race shouldn't count, but also that maybe class should.

If the press didn't make much of Gingrich's statement, his argument does have some conservative intellectuals worried. For years, conservatives such as Clarence Thomas and Dinesh D'Souza have been championing the argument that class should replace race as the basis for preferences. Now that the idea has actually gained some currency, however, conservatives, conservative intellectuals especially, are starting to knock it.

On June 11, Abigail Thernstrom wrote an opinion piece in *The Washington Post* titled, "A class backwards idea: why affirmative action for the needy won't work." Her views echoed those of Nathan Glazer, whose earlier article in *The Wall Street Journal*, "Race, not class," rejected the notion of class-based affirmative action.

First, Thernstrom and Glazer argue, class-based preferences won't work well in education, employment and contracting. In education, they argue, class-based preferences will fail to produce an adequate number of minority students in selective universities. A University of California study released in May seemed to bolster their case. It found that class-based preferences would provide only small increases in minority representation over a system that weighs strictly academic achievement.

The problem is that, while blacks and Hispanics are disproportionately poor and should therefore disproportionately benefit from class preferences, they tend to do worse on the SAT than whites and Asians who come from the same income group. Left lingering is the suggestion that, if the tests are accurate, something must be "wrong" with blacks. But it's important to go further and ask why blacks generally do worse than whites of the same income. One major reason is that income, by itself, doesn't fully reflect economic position. Other factors, such as household wealth and

concentration of poverty, also matter. Generally speaking, blacks are more economically disadvantaged than whites of the same income group.

First, net worth differences between racial groups are much larger than income differences. While median black income hovers around 60 percent of white income, median black household wealth is only 9 percent of the white median. Researchers have found that black households with incomes between \$45,000 and \$60,000 have a lower mean net worth than white households with incomes between \$7,500 and \$15,000.

In addition, black poverty is generally much more concentrated than white poverty. Poor blacks are six times as likely to live in areas with high concentrations of poverty as poor whites, and black children disproportionately suffer from that increased burden in school and neighborhood. Counting these factors and others into a class-based preference system will both make the program more equitable and increase African American representation.

If the goal is to provide a fair system of equal opportunity, factoring in class does a much better job than either filling racial quotas or looking solely at academic numbers.

When it comes to employment, critics of class-based preferences have ridiculed the idea with extravagant and absurd stories about how it might work.

These criticisms point to two basic rules about class-based preferences in employment: The preferences should be based on quantifiable and verifiable indices of disadvantage; and consideration of economic background makes most sense in entry-level positions for those starting off in life, rather than in subsequent lateral moves or promotions of older workers.

In addition, preferences apply with greatest force to entry-level positions open to those just beginning their adult lives for both moral and practical reasons. From a moral perspective, the obstacles and disadvantages stemming from class are for the youngest adults not in any sense of their own making. An adolescent's poverty is as beyond his control as is his race, so preferences for teenage job applicants render moot the debate over how much adult poverty is the fault of the individual and how much of society. Adolescents are, of course, responsible for their own actions, but they aren't responsible for their class or socioeconomic status, or for the disadvantages that stem from that status.

On grounds of efficiency, the age of the job seeker is also important. If a corporate board is deciding between two 60-year-olds for the position of chief executive officer, efficiency surely dictates that one choose the individual who has a track record of producing the most; past record, in that case, is a fairly accurate predictor of future potential. But, in deciding which of two 18-year-olds to hire for an entry-level position, the future potential of the applicant, with three-quarters of her life ahead of

her, is partly guesswork. A look at obstacles such a person has faced in addition to her past track record is surely a relevant consideration in determining long-run potential. In promotions, where the case for preferences has always been much weaker than it has been in hiring, the Civil Rights Acts of 1964 and 1991 will continue to address racial and gender discrimination.

Finally, in the field of government contracting, critics argue that class-based preferences make little sense.

In a 1979 study, sociologist Christopher Jencks of Northwestern University found that: "If we define 'equal opportunity' as a situation in which sons born into different families have the same chances of success, our data show that America comes nowhere near achieving it.... The sons of the most advantaged fifth could expect to earn 150 to 186 percent of the national average, while the sons of the least advantaged fifth could expect to earn 56 to 67 percent of the national average."

A 1991 study, by David Zimmerman of Princeton, found that only 12 percent of boys born into the bottom quartile rose as adults to the top quartile. Sixty-nine percent were in the lower half. The correlation between fathers' and sons' income is almost identical for the United States and Britain.

Most Americans know that the deck is stacked against poor kids. They also realize that, because of past discrimination, an extraordinary number of those facing unequal opportunities are black. So, while 75 percent of Americans oppose racial preferences, according to a 1995 *Washington Post/ABC* poll, two-thirds wish to "change" affirmative action programs rather than "do away with them entirely."

Most Americans applaud the Adarand decision to reserve race-based preferences for those rare cases where they are unquestionably justified as a direct and temporary remedy for proven discrimination. But the public also realizes that, in real life, the legacy of discrimination is not always so neat. It is diffuse, and it requires a broader remedy.

Richard D. Kahlenberg is writing a book on class-based affirmative action for Basic Books.

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AMERICAN OUTLOOK

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Flag burning and patriotism

BY ALAN DERSHOWITZ

This past July 4th — like all Independence Days — brought to mind my late grandmother, who was the most patriotic American I ever knew. She loved America so much, because she had experienced its opposite. Raised as a Jew in a tiny shtetl in Poland, she knew what it felt like to be a second-class citizen. She came to America — "the golden nation," as she always referred to it — as a teen-ager after a long boat voyage in steerage. Although she lived in near poverty for much of her life, she received from her adopted country what she had never gotten from her native land: respect.

My grandmother loved the American flag. Although Jews are not allowed to worship any "graven image," my grandmother's love for the stars and stripes was as great as any secular love could be. Every July 4th, she would fly a tiny flag on a little stick from her apartment window. She loved the "pledge allegiance," as she called it, although I doubt she understood such big words as "republic" and "indivisible."

"America has been good for the Jews," she would always remind me. "Give back to America, be good to America," she would instruct me.

My grandmother never fought in a war, never joined the American Legion and never strutted around waving the flag for partisan purposes. Burning a flag would be unthinkable to her. I can just imagine her response to a flag burner: "Why would anyone do anything like that to our flag. Shame on him. Our flag never hurt anyone. It is a wonderful flag."

I wonder what my grandmother would think of the absurd debate in the House of Representatives over the proposed constitutional amendment to prohibit "the physical desecration" of the flag. Another one of my grandmother's favorite statements was, "In America anyone can say what they want. Not like in Poland, where you always have to watch what you say or they come after you." I don't think she would have approved of Americans coming after people who burned our flag. And my grandmother would have been right, as she usually was.

Most Americans share my grandmother's love for our country and our flag. Almost no one ever burns the flag, because the stars and stripes has earned our respect. What a lack of confidence the House of Representatives has shown in the American people by believing that our flag needs to be protected by a constitutional amendment.

The chief proponent of this un-American amendment is the commander of the American Legion, an organization which during World War II wanted to put Americans of Japanese descent on a Pacific atoll and then use it for bombing practice! Even he acknowledges, however, that hardly anyone ever burns flags in America. But then in a typical bit of American Legion logic he argues that flag burning "is a problem even if no one ever burns another American flag!" Just the very idea of flag burning being legal burns the commander.

Well, commander, I have news for you. If you get this amendment enacted, there will be more flag burning. Your actions will stimulate some sickies to demonstrate their defiance of your law by burning flags. You will be responsible for an increase in flag burnings. My grandmother also understood what you apparently don't: "If it ain't broke, don't fix it."

I remember a visit to Romania several years ago during the massive demonstrations against communism. I cheered as students cut the hammer and sickle out of the Romanian flag. That symbol did not deserve respect, and no law could have mandated respect. Respect comes from the heart, not from the law.

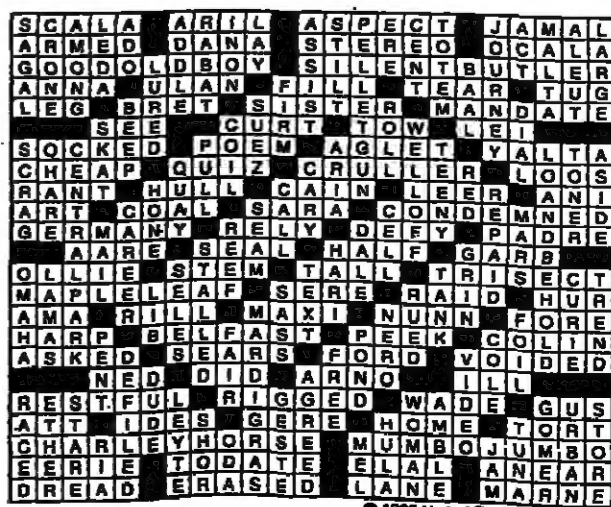
The biggest winners of all — if the amendment goes through — will be the lawyers (as usual). We will be kept busy litigating some monumental issues such as what exactly is a "flag." At our 4th of July party, the napkins were red, white and blue with stars and stripes. I noticed some heretics wiping their faces with these "flags" and then throwing them in the trash. One traitor even wore a flag swimsuit. I have even heard of, though I have never actually seen, American flag underwear!

Then there is this word "desecrate," whose root is "sacred," that is religious. Do we desecrate the flag whenever we fail to treat it as a sacred, that is religious, object. Even my patriotic grandmother would fail that test, since her religion forbade her from treating the flag as a "sacred" object. Once again, like in Poland, she would have felt like a second-class citizen.

I don't think my grandmother would have approved of this flag-burning amendment. Her grandson certainly doesn't.

Alan M. Dershowitz is a professor of law at Harvard University. His newest books are "The Advocate's Devil" (Warner Books) and "The Abuse Excuse" (Little, Brown & Company).

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Bystander killed in Taiba clan shooting

A GARAGE owner from Mo-shav Ein Sarid was shot and killed yesterday when he was caught in an attack between warring clans while visiting in Taiba. A five-year-old local girl was also lightly hurt in the shooting.

Shlomo Akbi, 40, whose mo-shav is near Taiba and who was there to buy spare parts, apparently got in the way of a shot aimed at another man in the clash between the Hariri and Al Kadar families, the continuation of a clan war that has been raging since March 1993.

Police said that at about 10 a.m. a car pulled up into Taiba's southern side carrying three men. Shots were fired from the car, apparently at a member of the Al Kadar clan, but the bullets hit Akbi. The attackers sped away from the scene, although police later found the car, which had been torched.

Large forces of police came to the town to prevent an outbreak of further violence. Police later confirmed that the shooting was definitely part of the ongoing feud between the clans, and that the motive was revenge.

The feud began when two Al Kadar clan members and a member of the Hariri family were

murdered.

Those charged with the crimes were sentenced to long prison terms, but the dispute has nonetheless continued, with the Hariri family eventually forced to move to Umm el-Fahm and Kafr Kasim.

Deputy Agriculture Minister Walid Sadek, a Taiba resident, arrived at the scene of the shooting and said the feud between the two gangs had turned into a battle between criminals, with some local gangsters working for the Hariris and some for the Al Kadar.

"We've lost control in Taiba," he said. "This is a war between criminals that we must stop."

Sadek plans to hold a meeting of local clans in his home to try to end the violence. "I'm very depressed and worn out. This is a very difficult situation which criminals have exploited and we must do something," he said.

Central District police chief Cmdr. Shlomo Aharonisky agreed, saying: "If the entire system, including public officials and local businessmen do not get together and take strong action, the criminals will continue to exploit the situation, and this cycle of violence will claim other victims."

(Itim)



Hundreds of teenagers from the National Federation of Temple Youth (NFTY) welcomed their first Shabbat in Israel yesterday at the Chapel in the Woods, located in the Jewish National Fund's NFTY Forest 25 kilometers west of Jerusalem. (Joe Malcolm)

Police rules would force banks to boost security

BILL HUTMAN

BANKS will be forced to employ security guards and install costly state-of-the-art security equipment they have until now done without, according to regulations proposed by the police.

Banks will also have to install closed circuit television systems and improved alarm systems hooked up directly to the nearest police station.

A copy of the regulations and an internal ministry document, signed by Police Minister Moshe Shahal, explaining how they would be implemented was obtained by *The Jerusalem Post*.

The Police Ministry has devised the regulations in response to the recent wave of bank rob-

beries, and is confident that they will be adopted by the Knesset. Using nearly two-decade-old legislation on licensing of businesses, the ministry is to present the regulations to the Knesset Interior Committee in the coming days, ministry sources said.

The committee's approval is all

that is needed for the regulations to become law, the sources said.

The heads of the nation's banks reportedly estimate the cost of the security measures being demanded by police at about \$6 million.

Last month they met with Police Minister Moshe Shahal, who informed them he would come up with new security regulations.

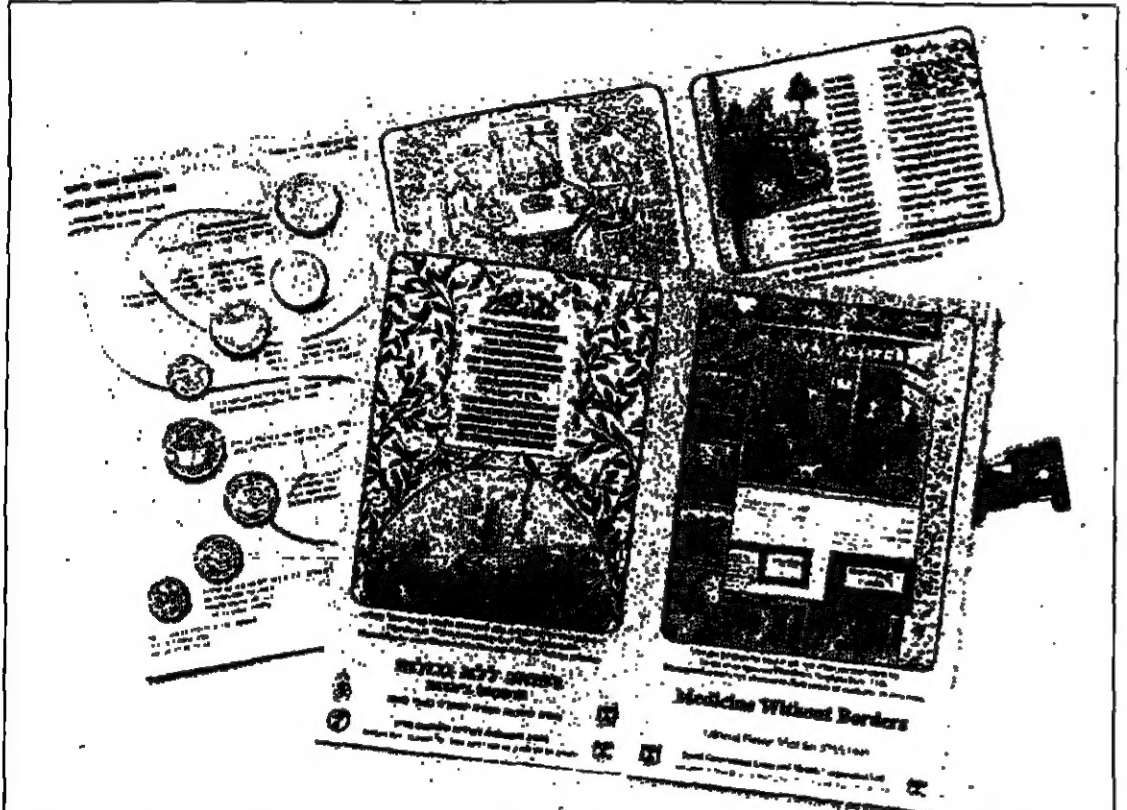
WEATHER

Jerusalem 18-27
Tel Aviv 22-30
Beersheba 20-32
Haifa 22-30
Tiberias 24-35
Ashdod 21-31
Sderot 21-31
Dead Sea 29-38
Eilat 36-40

Forecast: Partly cloudy to clear. No change in temperatures.

AROUND THE WORLD

Location	Low	High	Wind	Cloud
Amsterdam	15	20	10	cloudy
Berlin	16	21	12	cloudy
Bombay	28	33	15	cloudy
Buenos Aires	18	23	10	cloudy
Calcutta	29	34	15	cloudy
Chengdu	20	25	10	cloudy
Copenhagen	16	21	12	cloudy
Frankfurt	17	22	13	cloudy
Geneva	17	22	13	cloudy
Helsinki	16	21	12	cloudy
Hong Kong	28	33	15	cloudy
London	16	21	12	cloudy
Los Angeles	20	25	10	cloudy
Madrid	18	23	10	cloudy
Moscow	16	21	12	cloudy
New York	18	23	10	cloudy
Paris	17	22	13	cloudy
Rome	18	23	10	cloudy
Sydney	20	25	10	cloudy
Tokyo	22	27	12	cloudy
Yokohama	22	27	12	cloudy
Zurich	16	21	12	cloudy



The Israel Government Coins and Medals Corp. Ltd. has issued its 1995 official Pielfort Mint Set of coins, with the theme of Medicine Without Borders - Medicine in Judaism. In commemoration, the corporation has issued a set of coins of 1, 5, 10 and 50 agorot, and NIS 5 and NIS 10. There is an additional 50 agorot coin obtainable only as part of this series. All the coins are nearly twice the thickness of regular coins, and marked with a Star of David (except the special 50 agorot coin).

Protesters demonstrate against renovation in Ikrit

DAVID RUDGE

RIGHT-wing activists and several Galilee residents staged a demonstration near the site of former Ikrit village in the North over the weekend to protest work being carried out on cleaning and renovating the church there.

Police said the protest was vociferous at times, but there was no disorderly conduct or any reason for them to intervene.

The demonstrators, who included MKs David Mena and Esther Salmovitz, said it was part of an attempt to re-settle and rebuild Ikrit and nearby Biram villages, despite the fact some of the land they once occupied is now used by local Jewish farmers.

Former residents of the two

Christian villages and their descendants have been campaigning for years to press the government to honor promises that they would be allowed to return to their homes, even though all the buildings, with the exception of the church, have long since been demolished.

The ex-residents recently removed a toilet which they had installed in an out-building of the church after the Israel Lands Administration said it broke building and planning regulations.

A special government committee is examining the request by the ex-villagers that they be allowed to return and rebuild their homes in Ikrit and Biram.

Arad Festival gets underway today

AMIR ROZENBLIT

ANOTHER performance by David Broza at Masada has been added to the Arad Festival since tickets to the Thursday sunrise concert there have sold out.

Broza will host Jordanian musician Hani Nasser to mark the anniversary of the declaration of Jordanian-Israeli plans to make peace. Broza's extra concert will take place on Wednesday at 8 p.m. at Masada.

Tens of thousands of tickets to the festival's concerts have already been sold. It will begin

unofficially today with a music workshop, and continue until the early hours of Friday morning.

Tickets to Mashina's farewell concert, Shlomo Artzi and Natascha's Friends, Aviv Gefen, Rami Kleinstein and Rita have been selling especially fast.

Some 1,100 musicians are to perform at 14 different stages.

Organizers said they expect some 250,000 people at the festival and have expanded facilities to accommodate the large number of visitors.

Norway arranges Israeli-Palestinian soccer match

OSLO (Reuters) - Israeli and Palestinian boys will meet on the soccer field in Norway next month in what could be the first official sporting encounter between children from the two sides.

The game, organized by Norway Cup and the Holst Foundation, will be played between teams of 11-year-old boys in Oslo on August 2 ahead of a match between Norway's national team and England's Liverpool.

"Palestinian and Israeli children have never before taken part in sports events together," said Paal Holst, chairman of the Holst Foundation. "We certainly hope it will be a draw."

The foundation was set up in memory of former Norwegian foreign minister Johan Joergen Holst, who died while brokering the Oslo Accord.

The match is part of Norway Cup, the world's largest soccer tournament for children. A total of 1,250 teams and 30,000 players - both boys and girls - will be taking part.

E. Jerusalem development plan approved

BILL HUTMAN

THE Jerusalem local planning committee last week approved construction of three underground parking lots just outside the Old City, despite the opposition of the Antiquities Authority.

The parking lots are scheduled for construction underneath the Rockefeller Museum, beneath a new central bus station to be built for eastern Jerusalem on Nablus Road, and near the YMCA, also on Nablus Road.

Sources at the committee meeting last week said authority officials warned they would act to halt the construction if, as they expected, antiquities were discovered during the excavations.

The three underground parking lots are part of an overall development plan for the eastern Jerusalem business district, just outside the Old City's Damascus and Herod's gates.

The plan must still get the approval of the full city council and the district planning commission.

'French government retained seized Jewish assets after World War II'

PARIS (Reuters) - The French government kept or sold assets seized by the collaborationist Vichy regime from Jews deported during the Nazi occupation of France, Nazi-hunting lawyer Serge Klarsfeld said yesterday.

In an interview with the newspaper *Liberation* and France 2 television on the eve of the anniversary of the 1942 roundup of

Paris Jews by the Vichy police, Klarsfeld urged the government to compensate the descendants of Jews who lost their property.

President Jacques Chirac is due to address a memorial ceremony on the site of the former Vel d'Hiv cycling stadium where thousands of Jews were detained on July 16, 1942 before eventually being sent to Auschwitz.

"We expect the new president, whom we trust because he expressed his concern on this issue when he was mayor of Paris, to condemn Vichy and perhaps also condemn the way some people continued a policy after the war that was not very sympathetic to the Jews," Klarsfeld said.

"The Republic should be more forthcoming towards claimants, the children of deported Jews," he said.

Klarsfeld said millions of dollars in money, valuables and property of confiscated from 70,000 Jews deported to concentration camps had been transferred to the French Treasury after the war.

"The families of the deported never got anything back. The

Fourth Republic simply took it away. They stole the parents' money and then refused to give it back to the children," he said.

"Germany paid France DM 400 million in reparations to the victims but the French state refused to give the slightest sum to thousands of orphans on the grounds that their parents were foreigners," Klarsfeld added.

LIBI - The Fund for Strengthening Israel's Defense

Thank You Super-Sol!

Before last Independence Day, the marketing chains, including Super-Sol, undertook to sell flags for mounting on cars, bearing the inscription, "Libi Fund's 15th Anniversary." The sale of these flags was very successful, bringing in considerable funds for the Libi Fund.

Libi Chairman, Maj-Gen. (Res.) Danny Matt, presenting Super-Sol President David Alford with a shield, in recognition of the chair's efforts on behalf of Libi. (Photo: Alan Ran)

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(Continued from Page 1)

cautioned that the figure is misleading since it includes a 30% drop in the price of fruits and vegetables from the beginning of the year, following a 56% jump last year. Excluding fruits and vegetables, Ozana estimates that inflation is currently running between 8% and 9%.

Ozana pointed out that when comparing the first half of the year with the same period last year, excluding fruit and vegetable and housing prices, price rises were very similar. When adjusted, prices rose 4.3% in the first half of this year compared with 4.7% during the same period last year, despite the fact that last year's overall inflation reached 14.5%.

Bar-Shavit agreed that the drop in fruit and vegetable prices reflected an adjustment to the dramatic rise last year, and not an inherent change in price behavior. "The sharp reductions are bottoming out and are about finished," he said.

By contrast, Bar-Shavit noted that the much slower rise in housing prices, which increased 4.5% in the first half of the year compared with 15% in the same period last year, reflects "the potential for a significant change in housing prices, including perhaps a drop in prices."

Housing prices rose 0.4% last

NEWS IN BRIEF

State to sell its apartments in fringe areas
Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer has announced a campaign to sell government-owned apartments in the peripheral areas. The empty apartments will be sold at a discount to those eligible for housing assistance, and priority will be given to the homeless and local residents.

In the first phase, some 400 apartments located in Afula, Upper Nazareth, Safed, Kiryat Shmona, Dimona, Yeroham, Mizpeh Ramon, and Ofakim will be marketed.

Amir Rozenblit

TA museum gets Impressionist collection
The Tel Aviv Museum of Art has received an important collection of Impressionist and post-Impressionist works from the estate of Simon and Mary Jaglom. The exhibition formally opened last night. One picture, *Cezanne's The Drunkards* (1872), is the basis from which all modern art developed, said museum director Gideon Omer.

Simon died in 1992, and his wife in 1989.

Helen Kaye

Winning numbers
In Friday's Mifal Hapayis daily Chance card draw, the lucky cards were the king of spades, ace of hearts, queen of diamonds, and nine of clubs.

The Jews of Lithuania - Masha Greenbaum
"I will go on reading 'The Jews of Lithuania' for the rest of my life. It is a work for which generations will be grateful." Cynthia Ozick
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